

Hafa Adai!

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US Navy sailor drowns on Tinian

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A U.S. Navy sailor on assignment on Tinian died off the coast of the island over the weekend and the incident remains under investigation.

Lt. Commander Rick Moore, who is the public affairs officer for Joint Region Marianas in Guam, identified the victim as Gen Sun, 35, a Construction Mechanic Constructionman assigned to

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 4 that is on Tinian to do preparatory work for the planned divert airfield that

the U.S. military will build on Tinian.

Responding to an email inquiry from *Saipan Tribune*, Moore said that Sun was pronounced dead last Sunday at the Tinian Health Center after being found unresponsive on Tinian waters. He said it was a DPS Tinian Search and Rescue team that found Sun, after he was swept out to sea while snorkeling in the vicinity of

See SAILOR on Page 4

\$62M stimulus out, \$20M still available

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Department of Finance distributed roughly over \$62 million of the third stimulus checks last week and the CNMI government still has \$20 million remaining, according to Fi-



Atalig

nance Secretary David DLG Atalig last Friday.

In response to a question during a radio press briefing, Atalig said they still have that \$20 million in the bank, so they're not going to request for any ad-

See STIMULUS on Page 4

FEMA: Housing program completion for Yutu survivors in late 2022

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Federal Emergency Man-

agement Agency estimates that it will take until late 2022 for the agency to complete the



Cochran

and Tinian.

"We're almost halfway with the construction," according

See FEMA on Page 4



HALF-STAFF

The flags of the United States, U.S. Army, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Navy, and U.S. Coast Guard at the American Memorial Park Circle of Honor are flown at half-staff yesterday, in accordance with a presidential proclamation that all flags in public properties will be flown at half-staff in memory of the mass shooting victims in Indianapolis, Indiana. The flags will fly half-staff until sunset of April 20.

JOSHUA SANTOS

Exploring the CNMI in 23 days

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

Twelve islands. Twenty-

three days.

That, in a nutshell, is what explorer and mountaineering enthusiast Vladislav Melnik

will seek to achieve—to explore and go to each of the 12 mostly uninhabited islands of the Northern Mariana Islands chain, from its northernmost See EXPLORING on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 7pm, April 20, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	18,222
Fully Vaccinated:	14,081
Moderna	
Initiated:	2,803
Fully Vaccinated:	2,123
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	49

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	7,879	5	7,884
Recovered	7,695	4	7,699
Active	44	5	49
Deaths	136	0	136
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	148,708		

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	162	0	162
Traced via Travel Screening	126	0	126
Traced via Community Screening	36	0	36
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	26,131*		
Days since last community transmission	34		

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Lohas Massage is offering a new complimentary eye massage to all its customers.

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ASIA

New Delhi has imposed a weeklong lockdown to prevent the collapse of its health system.

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WORLD

The prime minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines pleads for help for his country.

PAGE 14



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Local

DOL collects \$21M in PUA/FPUC overpayments

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

The CNMI Department of Labor has reportedly collected a total of \$21 million in overpayments from the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation programs.

According to Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente, as of March 31, the department has collected a total of \$21 million

worth of overpayments from over 3,001 claimants from the first round of PUA and FPUC payments.

"Our Benefit Payment Control unit has been very busy in collecting [the] overpayments," she said. "We've been busy collecting overpayments and issuing payments as fast as we can."

Of the 3,001 overpayment cases, 344 cases were deemed disqualified because of their immigration status while the

rest were either from fraudulent claims (outside the CNMI territory claims), or miscalculated earnings.

In breaking the amounts down, Benavente said that \$10 million was collected from PUA claims and \$11 million was collected from FPUC claims. In addition, out of the \$21 million, \$12 million came from out of the CNMI territory cases, which the department deemed to be fraudulent claims.

Meanwhile, with PUA round 2, Benavente said the department has processed about 173,000 PUA claims as of last week and 144,000 FPUC claims.

Benavente said the CNMI's number of PUA claims continue to remain at the same level as when the program was relaunched back in February.

"Every week, we've been seeing about 200 applications. It's a steady pace of unemployment

applicants in the CNMI. I don't see a reduction in those numbers at this point," she said.

Because of the high volume of claims the department receives daily, Benavente said the department has reduced the number of staff from its PUA call center and increased the number of adjudicators to help process claims from PUA round 1, 2, and the upcoming round 3.

In regards to PUA round 3, which was signed by U.S.

President Joe Biden back in March as part of the American Rescue Act Plan, Benavente said the CNMI has already submitted an application to the U.S. Department of Labor for funding.

"We did submit our application to USDOL for the American Rescue Plan for PUA—what we call round 3. We're waiting for approval for those funds soon. Hopefully, we can start to issue out payments for those claims," she said.

Virtual job fair to be held Wednesday, Thursday in Guam

Jobseekers in the Guam community will have an opportunity this week to speak with employers and interview for jobs on the spot at the Fañomnakan 2021 Job Fair, hosted by the University of Guam and open to the public. The annual job fair will be held virtually from 10am to noon on both Wednesday and Thursday.

The fair is open to graduating seniors, UOG alumni, and the public. Interested participants and employers can register free of charge at url.uog.edu/JobFair21. Upon registration, participants will receive a unique link to join the virtual job fair.

The list of participating employers includes:

- Allegro Beverage Corp.
- Cloverdale Foods
- Deloitte & Touche LLP
- Docomo Pacific
- FBI (Honolulu)
- Fresenius Kidney Care
- G4S
- GTA
- Guam Department of Education
- Guam Police Department
- Guam Temps Inc.
- Joint Region Marianas
- KUAM News
- MCS LLC
- Providence Region
- U.S. Department of State
- U.S. Army

The main meeting room will inform participants of the various employment opportunities and when breakout sessions for each employer will begin. Participants may request entrance into any employers' breakout room, where employers will show a short presentation on their company or organization and available job opportunities. Representatives will then arrange for interviews with interested individuals in private breakout rooms.

Participants should have digital versions of their résumés and cover letters ready

See **VIRTUAL** on Page 4



STARTING 'EM YOUNG

Tasi to Table Inc. instructors Dan Wollak, standing left, and Derik Reyes Jr., standing right, teach a student how to attach a lure to a fishing line last Saturday during the presentation of fishing rods and other fishing necessities to TTT members at the Kagman High School cafeteria. The equipment were donated by Fishing Tackle and Sporting Goods.

JOSHUA SANTOS



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IPI Mongolian workers to be repatriated in May

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After much delay, Imperial

‘You don’t hear me whining about lack of dollars’

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

If the majority bloc of the House of Representatives wants to appropriate funds, they should look at how to generate revenue to help the hospital and the CNMI’s infrastructure, according to Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres on Friday during his regular radio press briefing.

“You don’t hear me going out and whining about the lack of dollars while we need to do work and we’re here to do work,” said Torres in response to request for comment about Attorney General Edward Manibusan’s opinion that the House’s tie-breaker rule that allows the speaker to vote twice in the event of a tie contravenes the CNMI Constitution’s provision on the minimum vote requirement.

The governor said he has always respected Manibusan’s decision and that he gets guidance from him.

Torres said the Legislature has no authority to appropriate the \$515 million allocated to the CNMI under the Ameri-

Pacific International (CNMI) LLC now has a date for the repatriation of its Mongolian workers.

can Rescue Plan Act. “They don’t have the authority to appropriate and we consistently told that to the House. Unfortunately, they went ahead and voted on it,” he said.

With Manibusan coming out with an opinion on the tie-breaker rule and the Legislature’s lack of authority to appropriate ARPA funds, Torres hopes the lawmakers will respect what Manibusan has voiced out.

“We are here to work with each other. Again, prior to this ARPA, there’s hundreds of millions of dollars of federal funds that have been sent over to the CNMI throughout the years,” he said, and the Legislature has never appropriated those funds because they don’t have the authority to appropriate those funds.

The governor pointed out that if the U.S. Congress, both the House and the Senate, and the U.S. President feel that that the state legislature should appropriate these funds, it would have been implemented and it would have been put into the bill. Unfortunately, it is the CNMI House’s 10 members who want to appropriate these

In a status report filed last Monday, lawyer Michael Dotts, who represents IPI in this case, told the U.S. Dis-

ARPA funds.

“So, again, it is unconstitutional, so I hope that the Senate realizes that and I’m sure that they’ve looked into it,” Torres said.

The governor said he has no issue with lawmakers coming out with revenue-generating legislations and appropriating funds to help build a new hospital or help the CNMI’s infrastructure.

In his opinion on the House’s tie-breaker rule, Manibusan recommended submitting a certified question petition to the CNMI Supreme Court to resolve the dispute.

Last March 19, House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) had to exercise his authority to break a 10-10 tie to pass a bill that mandates legislative appropriation for the \$515 million Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund that’s allocated to the CNMI for government operations under the ARPA.

The OAG, the Office of the Public Auditor, and the CNMI Department of Finance have issued comments that are all unfavorable to that bill.

strict Court for the CNMI that progress has been made in repatriating IPI’s Mongolian construction workers. Dotts said IPI is hopeful that a total of 106 Mongolians employees can return to their home country in early May.

These workers, who entered the CNMI on H2-B work visas, had applied to convert their visa status to CW-1, but it wasn’t guaranteed and are awaiting approval from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. However, IPI is now working on sending these workers home because

of the uncertainty of USCIS’ approval.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, IPI has already repatriated four Thai construction workers. Other workers, however, have refused to leave the island until they are paid their back wages, while others are looking at changing their immigration status and travel restrictions in some places have yet to be lifted.

Of the six Malaysians remaining, one has applied to renew his CW visa status with IPI, and the other five do not want to depart until they are fully paid.

As for the Taiwanese workers, 11 have applied to change their status from H-2B to CW with a different employer.

Eleven Turkish employees who have decided not to depart still remain on island, and two of the group’s members strongly refuse repatriation.

Construction work at the IPI casino-resort site remains suspended as ordered by the court.

Meanwhile, IPI employee housing still has power and food services have continued without interruption for all H-2B workers.

IPI’s next payday (payroll 9) is scheduled for April 23.

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MCS AlumKnight Christine Saunders advances in her career

Alumknight Christine Fital Wood Saunders recently returned to the school to educate and give back to her alma mater with her master's degree in teaching. In 2008, Saunders earned her bachelor's degree in English from the University of San Diego, and in 2016 she received her master's degree in Teaching from the University of Southern California. "Teaching is what I've dreamt of doing since I was a little girl. I realized in

grad school that I'm a natural when it comes to education. At USC, I genuinely enjoyed all of my classes. They were easy to me because I was truly interested in the content." Saunders attended MCS from 1996 to 2004 and her own father, former governor Benigno Fital, is also an AlumKnight who has been recognized by the school as an AlumKnight of the Year. At her alma mater, Saunders notes that she learned valuable life les-

sons. "Mount Carmel School has taught me to be diligent in my pursuit of academic success. Every academic achievement I received at MCS propelled me toward obtaining more achievements in my time in the [United States]. I wanted to give back. I was able to succeed in college and graduate school because MCS taught me to strive for greatness. I want to give back to the school that inspired me by hopefully inspiring future generations of Knights. "

Saunders teaches English, Reading, and Composition, and hopes to inspire and positively affect the lives of her future students, "I want to be a living example—that they see every day—of what they can become." Recognizing her achievements, the school's Sacred Heart Chapter of the National Honor Society, of which she herself was a member in high school, invited her to deliver the keynote address at its recent induction ceremony. School president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero honored Saunders'

accomplishments and dedication to the school. "MCS always welcomes its Alumknights to come and give back to the school in any way they can, in which Mrs. Saunders was kind hearted and enthusiastic to rejoin us. ...Mrs. Saunders is a great addition to our faculty and will use her variety of academic achievements to help inspire future generations of AlumKnights." To learn more about MCS and its AlumKnights, visit www.mountcarmelsaipan.com. (MCS)

EXPLORING

From Page 1

tip of Farallon de Pajaros down to its southernmost tip, Rota, in a trek that is estimated to last 23 days.

Of the 12 islands comprising the CNMI, only some of them are inhabited by people like Saipan, Rota, Tinian, Alamagan, and Pagan. Only a handful of people such as scientists, researchers and fishermen have been to the northernmost islands and the mystery of these islands is what is drawing Melnik to visit them.

The others—Maug, Asuncion, Agrihan, Aguguan, Sarigan, and Anatahan—remain pleasingly alien, most of them unexplored peaks of underwater mountains poking through the surface of the mighty Pacific Ocean. Melnik plans to start at the top of this crescent-shaped archipelago and make his way down south. He will be accompanied by a film crew that will be documenting what promises to be a great adventure.

"I leave on April 22 and start the expedition all the way up to the last Marianas frontier, the Farallon de Pajaros. For 23 days, I plan to make my way back to Saipan exploring every island in between. Exploring Saipan, Tinian, and Rota are a part of another adventure ... We are not going to skip it as it is a part of the entire project ... but not for 23 days. I will explore the uninhabited islands first," he said.

The game plan, Melnik said, is not only just to set foot on the land but explore the beauty of each island, both above and underwater, experience the sunrise, sunset, flora, and fauna and any kind of life. This means there is going to be a lot of setting camp, perhaps on top of a volcano, climbing, rappelling, paragliding, kayaking, scuba diving, and "take back what I see for the education of children and students, for science and really for the new



File photo shows explorer and mountaineering enthusiast Vladislav Melnik. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

generation," he said.

Melnik has been engaged in extreme sports and adventures for more than 20 years now. As a child, he grew up in an environment surrounded by mountains and treated jungles and forests as his playground. His social media accounts contain photos and videos of different adventures around the CNMI, which delights followers that live vicariously through his explorations.

"I have a good set of skills and my background includes being a combat medic, so I can take care of myself and others, I am a certified in parachute jumps, scuba diving, and I have a pilot license as I have worked with an aviation company. My survival skills are tested in the mountains and in snow. This CNMI exploration may involve a tropical environment but I have a pretty solid experience and this motivates me to move and to do more," Melnik said.

"With this project, everything is big. It is going to be huge because this will be a first in the history of the Marianas. ... With my experience and set of skills, everything is doable to accomplish all my mission. ... I have a film crew that is going with me and one of them is a young and talented

photographer and filmmaker. We have good equipment that we hope to capture every moment and detail. In some places where the crew cannot follow me, I will also be carrying professional cameras because on some islands, I plan to stay overnight or to go solo to catch the right moments," Melnik added.

According to Melnik, this project is an independent endeavor, mostly funded by himself and supported by friends who provided him equipment. If there are people who want to join him, he is open to the idea but he has a word of caution.

"First of all, I don't want to jeopardize my expedition. People have different stamina, endurance and, yes, some people could follow in the general areas but not to be with me because the itinerary is going to be intense," he said.

"We have a very short time, almost without rest, just [jumping from] island to island from bottom to the top and then the next island. ... People who are willing to follow me, the boat crew can help deploy their tent and bring the stuff but they would have to be able to cook and take care of themselves."

Melnik said that this endeavor is not for profit. "I'm not asking for money but inviting people to share the same vision. ... to learn more about the other islands in the Marianas and appreciate their beauty. This will be beneficial to education and tourism of the Marianas and, hopefully, we can open that direction to make it available for many people, whether residents or tourists."

"...another goal is eventually to publish a book about the Marianas containing all that we saw and experience during this expedition. ... It is hard to describe the excitement and anticipation that I have for this trip but one thing is for sure, it is really going to be good for the Marianas," he added.

enue and Taxation.

If they need more funding for the third stimulus, Atalig said that part of their implementation plan and agreement with IRS is that they will submit the names, the information, the amounts, and request for drawdown with IRS.

"Normally, that process takes about a week to get those funds into us. At the moment we still have around \$20 million in the bank for stimulus Part 3," Atalig said.

He earlier disclosed that the payment of stimulus funds to over 31,000 taxpayers, either via direct deposit or paper checks, went out as planned last April 12.



Mount Carmel School Alumknight Christine Fital Wood Saunders returned to the school to educate and give back to her alma mater with her master's degree in teaching. MCS

FEMA

From Page 1

to FEMA Recovery Office director Sheryl Cochran in an interview during a news briefing on FEMA's approval of an \$88.73 million Community Disaster Loan for the CNMI last Monday.

Cochran said that FEMA has obligated a total of \$279 million to the CNMI for public assistance and infrastructure projects for Yutu's recovery. She said over \$260 million is for individual assistance.

The director said 107 homes have already been returned to Yutu survivors, and that 20 of those are brand new homes and 87 are repaired properties.

"We are building 59 homes right now as we speak," said Cochran, disclosing that she and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios frequently visit some of the sites and the ongoing construction.

She credits Finance Secretary

David DLG Atalig, Governor's authorized representative for Yutu Virginia Villagomez, and the rest of the CNMI's team for helping make this recovery possible.

When asked for more details about the housing program, Cochran said for the repaired homes, they have returned 87 homes, and that seven of those are on Tinian and 80 are here on Saipan.

All 20 new construction homes that have been returned are here on Saipan. She said they have six under construction on Tinian right now and 52 that are under construction here on Saipan.

Cochran anticipates to turn over a new home on Tinian—one should be completed sometime early this summer.

"We shy away from dates because anything can happen in construction. A little too much rain or poor weather [causes] lots of complications. But we anticipate that that home will be delivered sometime early summer or early to mid-summer," she said.

plans for the U.S. military to conduct training there and build a divert airport there.

CNMI Department of Public Safety spokesperson Dre Pangelinan has yet to respond to a *Saipan Tribune* inquiry about the matter.

The last fatal drowning incident reported in the CNMI was back in March 25, a 56-year-old Korean woman who was rushed to the hospital after being found face down in the waters near the World War II tank in Susupe.

The woman reportedly had a pulse when she was rushed to the Commonwealth Healthcare Center but died three days later in the CHCC Intensive Care Unit.

fully participate in the job fair. Some sessions may be recorded for later reference.

Job seekers can also browse the Triton Career Connections website for opportunities at <https://careerconnect.uog.edu>.

For more information, contact the UOG Career Development Office at career.development@triton.uog.edu. (PR)

STIMULUS

From Page 1

ditional drawdown or for additional funds right now.

"Just to assure the community that every taxpayer that is qualified could avail of the stimulus. They'll get it, one way or the other. There is no running out of funds," he said.

But just in case, should the CNMI requests for additional funds, Atalig assured that all taxpayers will get their stimulus as the U.S. Internal Revenue Services is committed to providing those funds.

With respect to the small batch of checks that Finance released last Friday, Atalig said they're dealing with some of the accounts so that people that have had their bank accounts frozen or closed can still get their stimulus.

"We're working on that to get that stimulus. I don't have the total amount. I know, it's about 158 taxpayers. The number I received was about 158," he said.

Atalig said they will be batching the stimulus checks as being available to distribute on a weekly basis.

He will have further guidance and more details this week on that when he meets with the Division of Rev-

Miracle Hands creates program for at-risk youth

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Non-profit organization Miracle Hands Charity, which helps the community's disadvantaged residents, is expanding its outreach to at-risk youth, with the creation of a humanitarian program called Youth Empowerment Solutions, or YES.

Miracle Hands Charity's Diego Manglona Sablan said in an interview yesterday morning that YES' goals for the year includes increasing the organization's services and create more developmental opportunities for at-risk youth.

Currently, YES is working with the Division of Youth

Services to help at-risk youth, such as those who frequently get put in after-school detention. Sablan said this is the educational side of their work at Miracle Hands Charity.



Sablan

Sablan's plans for YES' educational services include interest exploration and career advancement programs. "One thing I found out with the young people is that they have to find their interests. Once you find the interest—whether it be after school or in school—most likely they'll be more willing to be involved," he said.

Sablan said that, with the help of athletics associations and mentors on island, they could get some of these at-

risk youths involved with canoeing, basketball, baseball, mixed-martial arts, and other activities.

For YES' career advancement program, Sablan is currently working on partnerships with the Northern Marianas College and Northern Marianas Trades Institute, with off-island excursions and partnerships with off-island colleges and U.S. companies.

"Let's say [a student] wants to be an engineer, and we can do an excursion where they can actually go to a Boeing facility and gain interest. Then they can go to NMC, and when they're ready to pursue their goal they can say, 'Hey look, I've been to Boeing, I like what Boeing does,'" Sablan explained.

Following Miracle Hands Charity's success in financial backing and sponsorships from organizations such as Wushin Co., Great Harvest, I Love Saipan, and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Sablan predicts similar interest and success for YES. "It's fairly new what we're trying to do here, but we're very optimistic and have good people working with us. ... There should be some success; it's just about getting the key people in the right places," said Sablan.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Community and Cultural Affairs
Office of the Secretary
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CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND (CCDF) PROGRAM 2021 SUMMER PROGRAM GRANT

RE-ANNOUNCEMENT

The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Program announces an opportunity for non-profit, community-based organizations to participate in a Summer Program Grant for Summer 2021. This grant is open to organizations that offer Summer Programs to all school-aged children between the ages 6 to 12 years old. For this grant, a total of six (6) awards will be provided. CCDF has the right to award smaller grant awards as appropriate. CCDF Summer Program Grant Application Packets may be picked up at the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Program Office, Building No. 1347 Ascension Court, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

Interested applicants should submit one (1) original and three (3) copies of the completed application and requirements, sealed and marked: **CCDF Summer Program Grant Application 2021. Attention: Maribel Loste, CCDF Administrator.** All applications must be stamped received no later than April 30, 2021 3:00p.m. Incomplete applications will not be accepted and will be returned.

CCDF will only accept written inquiries regarding this grant opportunity and should be addressed to Maribel Loste, CCDF Administrator on or before 4:00p.m. on April 26, 2021. Inquires maybe sent via:

1. Email at mloste.cnmiccdf@gmail.com with the subject: **CCDF 2021 Summer Program**

All inquiries made after April 26, 2021 will not be entertained.

/s/ Maribel Loste
CCDF Administrator

/s/ Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero
DCCA Secretary

HONORS LIST

Saipan Community School's 3rd quarter Honors List:

PRINCIPAL'S LIST

4.00 (No grade below a "A")

JiHyo Kim-6th grade
Jeong Bin Park-6th grade
David Ye-6th grade
Joshua Yoo-6th grade
Alfred Baek-7th grade
Mikaela Rabago-8th grade

'A' HONOR ROLL

3.50 to 3.99 (No grades

below a "B")

Joan Song-6th grade
David Park-6th grade
Byul An-6th grade
Hannah Chae-6th grade
Jian Chun-6th grade
Lola Guerrero-7th grade
Jie Huang-7th grade
Andy Kim-7th grade
Tae Seong Kim-7th grade
Joanne Yoon-7th grade
Abbie Kim-7th grade
Sheryne Yang-7th grade
Elijah Ye-7th grade
Jason Kim-8th grade
Jacky Zhen-8th grade

Soledad Sablan-8th grade
Sophia Brasuell-8th grade

'B' HONOR ROLL

3.00 to 3.49 (No grades below a "C")
Gabriela Bark-6th grade
Morgan Finco-6th grade
Hilah Bacani-7th grade
Timothy Haynes-7th grade
Leighton Palacios-7th grade
Drei Camacho-7th grade
Matthew Haynes-8th grade
Dwight Crisostomo-8th grade
Jihyo Chun-8th grade



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality

P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950-1304
Tel.: (670) 664-8500/01; Fax: (670) 664-8540
www.deq.gov.mp



Jonathan I. Arriola
Director, DEQ

NOTICE OF MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE LANDFILL PERMIT APPLICATION SWMF-S-LF-01-2020

APPLICANT: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS (DPW), 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan MP 96950, 322-2745/2760.

DESCRIPTION OF APPLICANT'S OPERATIONS: The Department of Public Works (DPW) is proposing to renew its permit for the Marpi Solid Waste Landfill, an existing 26-acre municipal solid waste landfill (MSWLF) on a 43-acre site, with a bottom and side slope-lined landfill system consisting of existing cells numbered 1 and 2. The liner of the cells consists of a 60-mil high-density polyethylene (HDPE) flexible membrane liner (FML) on top of a geosynthetic clay liner (GCL) of less than 1 x 109 cm/sec hydraulic conductivity. A 2-foot operations and drainage layer consisting of engineered fill and a leachate collection system, is on top of the liner system. Appurtenant facilities for the landfill include a groundwater monitoring system, a gas migration monitoring system, surface water management system, public convenience area, leachate collection, storage, and treatment system, scale house, maintenance facility, and administration building. The Marpi Solid Waste Landfill was previously permitted under Permit No. SWMF-S-LF-01-2015, which expired on November 13, 2020.

DESCRIPTION OF LOCATION OF MSWLF: Marpi Depression, Island of Saipan.

PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENT PERIOD: DEQ will conduct a public hearing pursuant to 2 CMC §3122(d) on May 10, 2021 at 2:00 pm at the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality 2nd Floor Conference Room in Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan, regarding DEQ's intention to issue the requested permit. COVID-19 protocols will be implemented and all participants are required to wear a face mask at all times. In addition, written comments can be submitted by mail to the Department of Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950; sent by fax to 664-8540; or emailed to greg.reyes@becq.gov.mp. Comments must be received by DEQ by no later than June 3, 2021. Comments received at the public hearing and during the public comment period shall be considered in making a decision and DEQ shall prepare written responses to all significant comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Interested persons may obtain further information and inspect a copy of the application and supporting documents by scheduling an appointment with DEQ, Chalan Pale Arnold – Middle Road.

Please contact DEQ at 664-8500 if you have any questions or if you would like to learn more about the proposed renewal of the Marpi Solid Waste Landfill permit.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-21-022

Installation of Primary Screen

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Installation of Primary Screen in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The intent of the contract is for the Contractor to provide all labor, equipment, supplies and materials necessary to complete the scope of work which consists of: the installation of a primary screen (OFC), foundations, sewer piping, sewer valves and valve box, water service, electrical service, water booster pump, basket strainers, and rehabilitation and modification of existing improvements, along with other miscellaneous features, for one unit at Sadog Tasi Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). The work shall be completed with minimal disruption to the daily operation of the Sadog Tasi WWTP. CUC requires the Project to be completed in 180 calendar days from date of award of contract.

The project is funded through Saipan Local Law 20-19.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **April 21, 2021 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-21-022, Installation of Primary Screen" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on May 13, 2021, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.

A **Payment Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent and a **Performance Bond** of one hundred (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on April 27, 2021** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Westen Knudsen, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer via email westen.knudsen@cucgov.org and to Marcela Tenorio, CUC P&S, Senior Administrative Technician - marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

WILLIAM GILMORE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLON
Purchasing Officer

AlumKnight directs Shakespeare play for Theatre Club

As part of the ongoing celebration of its 25th anniversary, Mount Carmel School's Theatre Club returns to William Shakespeare with an adaption of his classic comedy, *As You Like It*. While the club has presented 12 productions from Shakespeare, including one feature length film, the last time the club staged Shakespeare was 2014's *Shakespeare Meets Disney*, which showcased three plays by the bard with a Disney twist.

At the helm directing *As You Like It* is the school's director of institutional development, AlumKnight and Theatre Club veteran Victoria Deleon Guerrero—or "Ms. V" as her students call her.

As a student at the school, Deleon Guerrero served in many roles in multiple productions, including lead actor, director, and stage manager. After graduating in 2013, she continued her passion for theater at Seattle University with a double major in Interdisciplinary Liberal Studies & Theater. While at Seattle University, she remained active in theater with roles in acting, costumes, set design, directing, and stage management. Deleon Guerrero even earned an internship at the prestigious Intiman Theater while living in Seattle.

In 2019, Deleon Guerrero returned to her alma mater, where she has continued telling stories on stage and in film, serving as co-adviser for the club and teaching students more about costumes, set design, and stage management. Since returning, she also co-produced the club's 2019 sold-out hit, *Mamma Mia!*,



MCS Mount Carmel School director of institutional development and Theatre Club AlumKnight Victoria Deleon Guerrero, left, directs a scene during a recent rehearsal of William Shakespeare's *As You Like It*.

and directed one of the recent stories in the school's award-winning *We Drank Our Tears* film series.

Given all her experience in theater, it was a joy for Deleon Guerrero to return to directing a stage play. "Returning to Theatre Club since earning my bachelor's degree has been so rewarding," she said. "I might be their director, but they continue to explore the limits of their artistry in this production and I am just so proud to see how far they've come in just a few months."

Working with the cast and crew has been especially inspiring for her. "I am truly blessed for every cast and crew member who is a part of this show. The students that started out in this production have honestly evolved in so many ways that even they can see a change in

their craft."

As for the show itself, Deleon Guerrero hopes the audience "can see just how much hard work these students have put into this production." She even invites the audience to "dissect our production from the character development, spectacle, and design."

In particular, Deleon Guerrero emphasized the importance of theater. "Unlike many other art forms, in theater you aren't divided by a screen or a museum, but you're watching people act and respond to relatable moments in life that's captured onstage." This commitment to the visceral realism of theater is one important reason Deleon Guerrero returned to her alma mater to help others achieve that sense of realism.

Launched in 1996, the MCS Theatre Club celebrates its 25th anniversary this year, commemorating over 50 theatrical and cinematic productions, including several Disney musicals, numerous Shakespeare plays, and a number of original productions. The club started this year's celebration in February with the sold-out premiere of the latest entry in its award-winning *We Drank Our Tears* series, the *Stories of Visitation, Henry, and Dave* at American Memorial Park. The club will continue the celebration after *As You Like It* with a sequel 10 years in the making, May's premiere of the feature film *Zero2Hero*, a follow-up to 2011's cult hit, *Zero to Hero*. Later this year, the club will continue the celebration with another feature film, *Isla*, and the classic musical, *The Sound of Music*.

As You Like It will be pre-

sented on the Mount Carmel School campus on April 30 and May 1 starting at 7pm each night. Tickets are \$25 for front row premium seats and \$10 for general admission. Tickets can be purchased at Herman's Modern Bakery, Java Joe's Kagman Mobil, Naked Fish Bar & Grill, Puerto Rico Shell, Tribe Marianas, and the school's business office. To comply with COVID-19 mitigation guidelines,

tickets are limited and are available only on a first-come, first-served basis.

Funding for this production is provided by the CNMI CARES Relief Fund for Organizations and supported by the National Endowment for the Arts through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act of 2020. For more information, visit www.mount-carmelsaipan.com. (PR)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Scheduled power service interruption on Tuesday

There will be a scheduled power service interruption on Tuesday, April 27, 2021, from 9am to 2pm in Koblerville. The utility lines in the area will be de-energized to allow linemen of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to safely replace three (3) rotted primary power poles.

■ Tuesday, April 27, 2021
• Time: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

• Areas Affected: Koblerville (Sentada Ct., Asnenuk St., and partial areas along Alaguan St.);

• Distribution Circuit: Kiya-2

• Water Well Affected: None

• Wastewater Lift Station Affected: None

Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the working area.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Hotline at 236-4333 or monitor our

Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilities-Corporation/>). (PR)

NAVFAC Pacific awards \$80 million contract for work in the Pacific

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM—Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Pacific awarded an \$80 million indefinite-delivery indefinite-quantity (IDIQ) modification contract Apr. 15 to AECOM Technical Services, Inc., of Los Angeles, Calif., for architect-engineering services for environmental actions at various locations within the NAVFAC Pacific area of operations.

The additional capacity will support the Navy's Environmental Restoration Program, which is dedicated to environmental protection and stewardship through responsive, sustainable solutions to ensure Navy readiness.

The term of the contract is not to exceed five years with an expected completion date of August 2022. (PR)



Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 5, 2021 5:00 PM
Commonwealth Zoning Office, 2nd Fl. Joeten Dandan Bldg.
Tel: 234-9661/2 • Fax: 234-9666
www.cnmzoning.com

AGENDA

A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of 04/07/2021 Zoning Board Meeting minutes and 04/14/2021 Special Board Meeting minutes
5. Public Comments (not for items to be discussed in item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings

1. **Conditional Use Application #2020-6591** – Fritz Pacific is proposing to occupy the ground floor of a pre-existing two-storey commercial building structure measuring 68' (L) x 47'9" (W) x 9'11" (H) with a total floor area of 3,257.2 Sq. ft. for its Restaurant General Use proposal. This use is classified as "Restaurant General" and is permitted in the district as a condition use. This site is located on Lot No. 003 H 03 in the village of Susupe. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

C. New Business

1. Operations Reports (Permitting & Enforcement)

D. Miscellaneous

1. Next Meeting
2. Administrator's Updates

E. Adjournment

In an effort to provide public access to this meeting during this pandemic, the Commonwealth Zoning Board will host this meeting via:

Zoom Video Communications
Meeting Link: <https://zoom.us/j/6853007492>
Meeting Code: 685 300 7492



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING for Fritz Pacific

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Fritz Pacific is proposing to occupy the ground floor of a pre-existing two-storey commercial building structure measuring 68' (L) x 47'9" (W) x 9'11" (H) with a total floor area of 3,257.2 Sq. ft. for its Restaurant General Use proposal. This use is classified as "Restaurant General" and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. 003 H 03 in the village of Susupe. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: May 5, 2021

Time: 5:00 pm

Place: Commonwealth Zoning Office, 2nd Fl. Joeten Dandan Bldg.

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, May 4, 2021. Please send written comments via e-mail to zoningboard@cnmzoning.com, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Chairwoman

DELTA MANAGEMENT CORPORATION (SAIPAN)

Has an opening for a

Full Time Accounting Clerk/Auditor

CORE RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Auditing of daily sales reports for service stations.
- Accurately perform sales summary reports and fuel reconciliation.
- Auditing of fleet cards and credit card transactions.
- Performing Accounts Payable duties
- Must meet daily, weekly, and monthly reporting deadlines

CORE QUALIFICATIONS:

- Accounting and audit experience with understanding of basic accounting controls and principles.
- Must be self-motivated, be able to work in fast paced environment in a team environment.
- Experience and understanding of QuickBooks, Excel and Word.
- 2 years on island work experience and on island reference & police clearance required.
- Must be eligible to work in the US, US citizen, Green Card, other. CW-1 not accepted.

E-mail resume to: islandtrainingsolutions@gmail.com and deltaspn@pticom.com.

Gold’s Gym now an NMC ProaPerks Partner



Gold’s Gym is now a proud NMC ProaPerks partner. More information about their special promotion to ProaPerks card holders can be found at marianas.edu/proaperks. Photo was taken before the pandemic.

Gold’s Gym is the latest company to sign on as a Northern Marianas College ProaPerks Partner, joining many other businesses and organizations provides exclusive discounts and benefits for Northern Marianas College students, employees, and alumni.

All card-carrying members of the NMC ProaPerks program can now receive 15% off the enrollment fee for an annual membership at Gold’s Gym. Current NMC students may also avail of the short-term one- or three-month student discount.

Gold’s Gym joins the growing list of ProaPerks partners, such as 153 Restaurant, 360 Restaurant, 4EVER CNMI, Alamo Car Rental, AllStar Sporting Goods, Aqua Connections, Inc., Athlete’s Foot, BAB Korean Restaurant Cup Bab, Boarderline, Bolis R US 2, Bubba Gump, Candle

J, Caravan of Food, Casa Urashima, Chelu Alynez Enterprise, D’ Chef’s Kitchen, Docomo Pacific, Dollar Days, Enterprise Car Rental, Ete Cafe, Fishing Tackle and Sporting Goods, Fork and Spoon, Garapan Restaurant Cafe & Grill, Grandvrio Resort Saipan, Great Harvest, Boyer Trading Company LLC. dba Ginen Saipan, Healing Stones Spa, Highway Express Auto Care Center, Herman’s Modern Bakery, Inc./Tan Marikita’s Cafe, Hertz Rental Car, Hyatt, Ice Island Coffee & Ice Deserts, Ina’s Kitchen, Isla Shave Ice, International Roller Skates, Junlyn Salon, Kentucky Fried Chicken/Tacobell, Kevin’s Cafe, Kiki’s, Latte Build Gym, Lohas Massage, Magbers Snack Bar, Marianas Creation, MMC & Pacific Labs, LLC, Megabyte, Mermaid Restaurant & Milk tea, Nam Dae Moon, National

Car Rental, Natural Nail & Spa, Neni Girl Nails, NMC Bookstore, Ocean Candy, Ocean Star Restaurant, Pacific Home Appliances, Pena House Boutique, Saipan Computer Services, Salty’s, Shirley’s Cafe, Summer Snow Cafe & Kids Comer cafe, Surf Club, The Pacific Supply, The Shack, Tribe Marianas, and Triple J Motors.

NMC is in the introductory phase of rolling out the ProaPerks to alumni, students, and employees.

Companies and other interested organizations who would like to become part of the ProaPerks program and take advantage of the buying power of thousands of individuals that include Northern Marianas College alumni, students, and employees, can find more information by emailing proaperks@marianas.edu. (PR)

NMC graduate joins long list of NMC NCLEX passers

Ella Mae Dela Cruz, a Northern Marianas College nursing graduate, has joined the list of students who have passed the challenging National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses or NCLEX-RN.

“We are proud of Ella’s accomplishment,” said NMC interim president Frankie Eliptico.

The NCLEX-RN tests an individual’s nursing knowledge, skills and abilities essential to the safe and effective practice of nursing at the entry level. The exam is used by nursing boards in all U.S. states and territories to award nursing licenses.

“We commend Ella for this accomplishment and expect to see great things from her as her educational and professional journey continues,” said NMC Nursing Department chair Rosa T. Aldan. “Passing the NCLEX-RN and then being licensed as a Registered Nurse are great achievements.”

According to Dela Cruz, she decided to pursue a nursing career because she always had a strong desire to help others and provide comfort and care. Nursing offers a great opportunity to have an impact on the lives of others,” Dela Cruz said. “That certain feeling of making a differ-

ence in people’s lives is what motivates me.”

Dela Cruz said that NMC and its nursing program helped her prepare for the exam. “NMC has helped me prepare for the exam by laying a foundation of knowledge and skills related to the practice of nursing,” Dela Cruz said. “I was able to learn and get hands-on practice on clinical nursing skills throughout nursing school.”

Dela Cruz’s advice to students planning to take the NCLEX is that perseverance is key.

For more information about NMC’s nursing program, email Aldan at rosa.aldan@marianas.edu or visit www.marianas.edu. (PR)

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT NO. 21-02

United States District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands Student Intern (part-time, one-year term, paid internship)

Location: SAIPAN, Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)
Pay grade: CL-22 Step 1 = \$15.26/hour (includes COLA)
Opening Date: April 20, 2021 • Applications received by April 30, 2021 will be given priority.

Position Overview:

The United States District Court is accepting applications for a one-year part-time student internship as part of the United States Courts Model Intern Diversity Program, to expose, develop and place talented, underserved youth in the courts and prepare them for future permanent employment opportunities while training them to be champions of diversity and inclusion. This year-long internship is available to an undergraduate college student. The Student Intern will work directly with the Chief Judge, the Magistrate Judge/Clerk of Court, and other court-system professionals performing or assisting in judicial and administrative functions within the federal judiciary. Complete position description is available at <https://www.nmid.uscourts.gov>

Position Duties and Responsibilities:

- Observing a wide variety of court proceedings in civil, criminal, and bankruptcy matters.
- Shadowing judicial officers, judicial chambers personnel, clerk’s office personnel, and other court-system professionals to develop an understanding of the federal judiciary.
- Assisting judicial, professional, and/or administrative staff with jury matters and special events, such as naturalization ceremonies, and community outreach events.
- Assisting in collecting, organizing, and summarizing statistical, accounting, or mathematical data on case processing, budgetary, workload, and other court-related issues to support judicial, professional, and/or administrative staff.
- Assisting with maintaining, organizing and processing case documents, including legal pleadings and court orders to provide a complete account of active court cases.
- Performing basic legal and other research.
- Performing other duties as assigned.

Minimum Qualifications and Preferred Qualifications:

Candidates must be enrolled full-time as a Fall 2021 junior or senior year in a four-year college degree program, and have strong academic achievement, good character, self-sufficiency under challenging circumstances, solid organizational and planning skills, and demonstrate an appreciation for the value of diversity and inclusion in the workplace. Additional preference will be afforded to first generation college students.

Citizenship Requirement:

Applicants must be a U.S. citizen or eligible to work in the U.S.

Notice to Applicants:

Excepted service appointments are “at will” and may be terminated by either the court or the employee at any time for any reason. Selectees are hired provisionally pending results of a criminal background check. Employees are subject to the Judicial Code of Conduct. Direct deposit of pay is required.

Application Procedure:

Each applicant is required to submit a Cover Letter, Resume, and an AO-78 application form. AO-78 forms are on the Internet at: <https://www.nmid.uscourts.gov> or may be picked up at the U.S. District Court. Position is open until filled; applications received by April 30, 2021 will be given priority.

We prefer you to email signed applications to:
HR@nmid.uscourts.gov

Or, you may deliver signed applications to:
Clerk of Court
U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 500687, Saipan MP 96950
(Located on Gualo Rai Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan.)

The United States District Court is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Joey P. San Nicolas
Attorney-at-Law
San Nicolas Law Office, LLC
2nd Floor, Island Commercial Center, Rm. 203
Chalan Pale Arnold, Gualo Rai
P.O. Box 10,001 PMB 602, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7659 | Fax: (670) 234-9218
Email: jpsn@sannicolaw.net
Attorney for Petitioner Antonio S. Benavente

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER)
OF THE ESTATE OF:) Civil Action
GEORGE SABLAN) No.: 21-0118
BENAVENTE)
Decedent.) **NOTICE OF
HEARING AND
NOTICE TO
CREDITORS**

TO: ALL HEIRS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES AND
CREDITORS OF: GEORGE SABLAN BENAVENTE,
DECEASED

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the petition of ANTONIO
SABLAN BENAVENTE for the issuance of letters of
administration of this estate will be heard before the
Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Associate Judge, on the
6th day of May, 2021, at 10:00 a.m., at the Room 205,
Superior Court of the Northern Mariana Islands, Susupe
Village, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern
Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby
notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any,
why the order should not be made.

For further particulars, please refer to the Petition on file
herein, or contact counsel for Petitioner, Joey P. San
Nicolas, P.O. Box 10,001 PMB 602, Saipan, MP 96950;
telephone (670) 234-7659 and email jpsn@sannicolaw.net.

Pursuant to Rule 21, NMI R. Prob. P., notice is hereby
given to all creditors of the decedent, GEORGE SABLAN
BENAVENTE, or of his estate, that they must file their
claims with the Clerk of the Superior Court, Saipan,
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands,
within sixty (60) days of the first publication of this
Notice, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated this 13th day of April, 2021.

Hon. JOSEPH N. CAMACHO
Associate Judge

Joey P. San Nicolas
Attorney-at-Law
San Nicolas Law Office, LLC
2nd Floor, Island Commercial Center, Rm. 203
Chalan Pale Arnold, Gualo Rai
P.O. Box 10,001 PMB 602, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7659 | Fax: (670) 234-9218
Email: jpsn@sannicolaw.net
Attorney for Petitioner Antonio S. Benavente

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER)
OF THE ESTATE OF:) Civil Action
LYDIA) No.: CA-21-0119
BENAVENTE)
FUJIHIRA) **NOTICE OF
HEARING AND
NOTICE TO
CREDITORS**
Decedent.)

TO: ALL HEIRS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES AND
CREDITORS OF: LYDIA BENAVENTE FUJIHIRA,
DECEASED

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the petition of ANTONIO
SABLAN BENAVENTE for the issuance of letters of
administration of this estate will be heard before the
Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Associate Judge, on the
6th day of May, 2021, at 10:00 a.m., at the Room 205,
Superior Court of the Northern Mariana Islands, Susupe
Village, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana
Islands. All persons interested are hereby
notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any,
why the order should not be made.

For further particulars, please refer to the Petition on file
herein, or contact counsel for Petitioner, Joey P. San
Nicolas, P.O. Box 10,001 PMB 602, Saipan, MP 96950;
telephone (670) 234-7659 and email jpsn@sannicolaw.net.

Pursuant to Rule 21, NMI R. Prob. P., notice is hereby
given to all creditors of the decedent, LYDIA
BENAVENTE FUJIHIRA, or of his estate, that they must
file their claims with the Clerk of the Superior Court,
Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana
Islands, within sixty (60) days of the first publication of
this Notice, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated this 13th day of April, 2021.

Hon. JOSEPH N. CAMACHO
Associate Judge

Joey P. San Nicolas
Attorney-at-Law
San Nicolas Law Office, LLC
2nd Floor, Island Commercial Center, Rm. 203
Chalan Pale Arnold, Gualo Rai
P.O. Box 10,001 PMB 602, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7659 | Fax: (670) 234-9218
Email: jpsn@sannicolaw.net
Attorney for Petitioner Antonio S. Benavente

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER)
OF THE ESTATE OF:) Civil Action
JUAN SABLAN) No.: CA-21-0123
BENAVENTE)
Decedent.) **NOTICE OF
HEARING AND
NOTICE TO
CREDITORS**

TO: ALL HEIRS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES AND
CREDITORS OF: JUAN SABLAN BENAVENTE,
DECEASED

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the petition of ANTONIO
SABLAN BENAVENTE for the issuance of letters of
administration of this estate will be heard before the
Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Associate Judge, on the
6th day of May, 2021, at 10:00 a.m., at the Room 205,
Superior Court of the Northern Mariana Islands, Susupe
Village, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana
Islands. All persons interested are hereby
notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any,
why the order should not be made.

For further particulars, please refer to the Petition on file
herein, or contact counsel for Petitioner, Joey P. San
Nicolas, P.O. Box 10,001 PMB 602, Saipan, MP 96950;
telephone (670) 234-7659 and email jpsn@sannicolaw.net.

Pursuant to Rule 21, NMI R. Prob. P., notice is hereby
given to all creditors of the decedent, JUAN SABLAN
BENAVENTE, or of his estate, that they must file their
claims with the Clerk of the Superior Court, Saipan,
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands,
within sixty (60) days of the first publication of this
Notice, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated this 14th day of April, 2021.

Hon. JOSEPH N. CAMACHO
Associate Judge

Opinion

Hafa Adair!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Mass killing in Indianapolis is a distinctly American story

The story is distinctly American. Eight people killed and at least five others wounded in a mass shooting at a FedEx work site near the Indianapolis airport.

Again.

Since the beginning of the year, there have been at least 147 mass shootings in these United States, in which 176 people died and 579 people were wounded. Five of them took place in Indianapolis, with a total of 18 killed and 15 people wounded.

Those are just the big ones—incidents in which at least four people were wounded.

Of course, the vast majority of people killed and maimed by guns in this country aren't victims of mass shootings. They die by the ones, twos and threes. Those deaths add up fast—so far this year, 5,408 people killed by someone else with a gun, and an estimated 6,996 people who shot themselves to death.

That's more than 12,000 gunshot deaths, or 117 per day.

In just the 72 hours that ended Friday morning, the Gun Violence Archive recorded 297 shooting incidents, with 113 people dead and 196 people wounded.

That's a lot of numbers. That's a lot of dead bodies. That's a lot of people scarred and traumatized by just a fraction of the more than 300 million firearms that are in private hands here in the United States.

Because, as the National Rifle Association and 2nd Amendment hard-liners tell us, a more armed America is a safer America. Sure it is.

One of the first steps in devising public policy is to understand the nature of the problem at hand. When it comes to gun violence, the problem is easy access to a firearm.

Yes, people pull the trigger. The reasons they pull the trigger are myriad—moved to violence by a mental crisis, by anger, by scheming calculation, by a thirst for retribution.

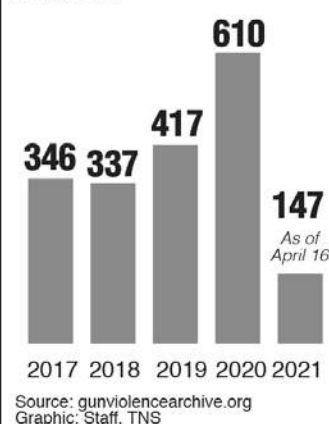
Those are all very human factors. Universal, in fact.

But access to personal arsenals is not. That is distinctly American.

So, too, it seems, is an inability to do something about it.

Mass shootings

Defined as four or more people killed or injured during incident in the U.S.



Why the risks of a US withdrawal from Afghanistan outweigh the benefits

President Joe Biden's decision to withdraw all remaining U.S. troops from Afghanistan represents a major shift in U.S. counterterrorism strategy. The withdrawal is calendar-based rather than conditions-based, which means the U.S. is withdrawing from Afghanistan not because conditions on the ground are conducive to peace and stability but because the war is unpopular domestically—and because Biden believes that the conflict with the Taliban is ultimately unwinnable.

But the risks of a U.S. withdrawal outweigh the benefits of leaving.

As the annual threat assessment released last week by the U.S. intelligence community lays out, al-Qaida remains among “the greatest Sunni terrorist threats” and continues to “seek to conduct attacks inside the United States.” The Islamic State also maintains a presence in Afghanistan. Last April, a cell of jihadists was arrested in Germany for allegedly planning to attack U.S. and NATO bases in that country—a cell that was being instructed by an ISIS operative based in Afghanistan.

Once the U.S. withdraws from Afghanistan, the Taliban is likely to take control of large swaths of the country by force. This will lead to renewed repression of the Afghan population, with the Taliban reverting to draconian Islamic rule in the areas it controls. But given the Taliban's longstanding ties to al-Qaida, Afghanistan will also once again become a country where transnational terrorist organizations can organize as they plot to strike the West.

By contrast, the costs of keeping roughly 3,000 U.S. troops in Afghanistan to work with Afghan forces pales in comparison. There have been no U.S. combat deaths since February 2020. In his speech laying out the reasoning behind his decision, Biden suggested that the U.S. had accomplished its goals in Afghanistan by killing al-Qaida's longtime leader, Osama bin Laden, a decade ago and dismantling the terrorist organization he headed.

There is no question that al-Qaida has been degraded following nearly two decades of Western counterterrorism operations. al-Qaida's current leader, Ayman al-Zawahiri, remains in hiding and only surfaces periodically to issue official statements. Rumors of his death have persisted online, and al-Zawahiri hasn't been heard from in months, further lending credence to reports of his demise.

But a degraded al-Qaida is not a defeated al-Qaida. With a U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan and the potential for a Taliban takeover of the country, the terrorist organization might have the opportunity to rebuild its network to the point where it could once again launch spectacular attacks on Western soil. Without a presence on the ground in Afghanistan, the U.S. is going to find it extremely difficult to monitor and disrupt emerging terrorist threats.

Yet the Biden administration, after undertaking what it called a

By **COLIN P. CLARKE**

Los Angeles Times

Colin P. Clarke is the director of policy and research at the Soufan Group, a global intelligence and security consultancy based in New York City.



“rigorous” policy review, ultimately decided that it was possible to mitigate terrorist threats emanating from Afghanistan even without U.S. troops on the ground.

Under the terms of the withdrawal, the U.S. government has pledged to “hold the Taliban to its commitment to ensure al-Qaida doesn't threaten” the U.S. and allied interests. But the Taliban never actually broke with al-Qaida, refusing to condemn the jihadists and even celebrating al-Qaida attacks in its own propaganda.

If Afghanistan descends into civil war following the departure of U.S. troops, and the Afghan security forces are unable to hold off Taliban insurgents, as many predict, the result will be a failed state in the heart of South Asia that once again has the potential to grow into a magnet for jihadists throughout the region. Without U.S. and allied troops in Afghanistan, intelligence analysis must occur from afar. This will negatively impact counterterrorism operations and the ability to conduct surveillance and reconnaissance against high-ranking terrorist leaders. Intelligence collection will inevitably suffer, too.

The announcement that the United States would withdraw all of its troops from Afghanistan by Sept. 11 also, inadvertently, hands a symbolic victory to the Taliban and al-Qaida. The result is a monumental public relations triumph for the Taliban and its jihadist allies, one that is sure to be featured in propaganda that celebrates the Taliban prevailing over what it has long dubbed the “crusader occupation.” Choosing 9/11 as the date of withdrawal plays into the jihadi narrative of an oppressive Western alliance intent on going to war with Islam. It is a rare unforced error on the part of the Biden administration that could have been avoided.

In wanting to bring an end to America's longest war, President Biden enjoys the support of many Americans who are war-weary and skeptical of Afghanistan's importance to U.S. national security. But if the Taliban and al-Qaida are hoisting the black flag of jihad over Kabul this fall on the 20-year anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks, it will be an excruciating reminder of everything the U.S. has lost in Afghanistan and how little it has gained.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Afghanistan's war—and America's stakes in it—won't end when the troops leave

When President Joe Biden announced last week that the United States would withdraw its last troops from Afghanistan by Sept. 11, he cast the decision as closing the book on a 20-year conflict. "It's time to end the forever war," he said.

But the battle for Afghanistan began long before American troops arrived in 2001, and won't end when the last U.S. soldier leaves. Taliban forces are almost certain to launch a military offensive to try to topple the government in Kabul. The result could be a military campaign that is bloody and short—or bloody and long.

And the United States will continue to have important stakes in the outcome, even if our troops are no longer there.

The most practical interest Americans have in Afghanistan is to ensure that it's not a base for terrorist attacks against the United States. That's the reason U.S. troops entered the country in the first place after al-Qaida's attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.

Biden claimed that mission has been "accomplished"—and that's true, for now. But the withdrawal of American troops will make it more difficult to keep track of al-Qaida, as CIA Director William Burns acknowledged last week.

American intelligence agencies will continue to pay Afghan informants for years to come. If al-Qaida appears to be regrouping there, American drones will attack it. U.S. forces will establish bases in nearby countries from which to conduct those strikes. And covert military units may even drop back into Afghanistan if a president deems it necessary, just as U.S. Navy SEALs landed in Pakistan to kill Osama bin Laden in 2011.

More broadly, the United States and other countries still have an interest in trying to stabilize Afghanistan.

That's partly for humanitarian reasons, of course. But there's also a practical reason: A continuing civil war could result in more extremism, more terrorism and more refugees flooding into neighboring countries. The United States, Pakistan, Russia, China and even Iran all have an interest in keeping the conflict limited.

So it's good news that Biden committed himself to a continued diplomatic effort, along with those other governments, to push the Kabul government and the Taliban into peace talks.

After the withdrawal, U.S. leverage will be limited. But there's one bit of leverage the U.S. and other big powers may still have, even if the Taliban successfully fights its way back into power.

"The Taliban want legitimacy," Laurel Miller, a former U.S. special envoy to Afghanistan, told me. "They don't want to govern as pariahs again, the way they did from 1996 to 2001."

If the Taliban wants international recognition and foreign aid, the diplomats argue, it may agree to deprive al-Qaida of bases and to negotiate with other political factions—even, perhaps, to soften its earlier oppression of women and girls.

And that brings us to a third American interest, which, like the first two, is both humanitarian and practical.

Four U.S. presidents spent 20 years pursuing the unrealistic goal of transforming Afghan society and politics—and got part of the way there. Thousands of Afghans put their lives and families at risk by helping the U.S. military or other foreign institutions.

In 2009, Congress set up a special immigration channel for Afghans who had worked for the U.S. government. But the program was understaffed and underfunded, and admitted a relative trickle of applicants. In its first 10 years, only about 18,000 Afghans were allowed in—leaving a backlog of almost 19,000 applicants out of luck. If the Taliban enters Kabul, thousands of former military interpreters and embassy aides could be stranded.

Now add a second group: Afghans who didn't work for the U.S. government, but whose lives could be in danger under a Taliban regime. This could include government officials, human rights activists and professional women. Many may ask to enter the United States as refugees.

On that score, Biden appears to be going in the wrong direction. Last week, White House officials suddenly announced that they were backing off from the president's campaign promise to

By DOYLE MCMANUS
Los Angeles Times



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quickly increase the number of refugees allowed into the United States each year. They said Biden had decided to maintain the ceiling of 15,000 set by Donald Trump.

After a storm of protest from Democrats in Congress, the White House reversed course again and said a new limit would be announced next month—but didn't say what the number would be.

A too-stringent cap on refugees will only create a new problem if Kabul falls. At that point, Biden is likely to feel pressure to open a special refugee quota for Afghans, just as the United States did for Vietnamese refugees after the fall of Saigon in 1975.

That wasn't universally popular.

"I do not believe the United States has an obligation, moral or otherwise, to evacuate foreign nationals," then-Sen. Joe Biden of Delaware argued at the time.

He was wrong then—and he would be wrong now.

Strictly speaking, we don't "owe" anything to them, not even those who put their lives at risk by collaborating with the U.S. military. But as we learned after Vietnam, we will feel better if we help save lives.

There's self-interest even in that. Honor and compassion, when we remember to apply them, are good for the U.S. reputation. For a country that seeks allies, better to be a trustworthy partner than an untrustworthy one.

Gen Z is our best hope for peaceful politics, so let's stop dismissing them

By KEVIN SINGER
THE FULCRUM

Joe Biden ran to be a president for all Americans, and this includes young people who were critical contributors to his victory last November.

Young people have the power to influence presidential elections, but whether they influence presidencies is another matter entirely. Biden ran on promises that matter to young people. But, after less than three months in office, there is growing concern these promises were just lip service.

"Young people not only exist to represent the future of the country. We are here to effect change so that our country may have a future," one student activist told the Center for Law and Social Policy. "This past election, we overwhelmingly voted for Joe Biden, cementing our place as a critical voting bloc," said Connor Kalahiki. "Despite our efforts, the issues we face are not prioritized. We face high unemployment rates, mental health crises, and injustice environmentally, socially, and economically—the pandemic has only exacerbated this reality. We cannot be ignored anymore."

"As a member of Gen Z, I was a part of this historic youth turnout. I supported Biden from the start," Ashley Lynn Priore, a national youth organizer, wrote for The Progressive on inauguration day. But it took months to connect with someone to urge the campaign "to consider the differences in policy based on ages. When I finally did get a call back, I was told something like this: 'This campaign is about organizing, not policy implementation.'"

Feeling dismissed, Priore concluded: "How do we expect to have a seat at the table for young Americans without actually engaging them in the White House? We are tired of being shut out."

These experiences are not unique, according to new findings by my organization based on surveys of tens of thousands of Americans ages 13 to 25 each year. After surveying their political perspectives in conjunction with a 2019-2020 national study, we discovered that 41 percent of young people feel that most adults in their lives disregard their feelings about political issues—and more than half (52 percent) believe they know more about politics than adults give them credit for.

"Older people, like our parents, don't really listen. They half listen to our opinions, thoughts, whatever the case may be. They don't really hear us out," Alyssa, 19, told us.

Additional data, however, suggests that young people are bearing the brunt of a political climate that doesn't put much value on hearing out anyone—their age notwithstanding.

When asked to describe how the adults in their lives talk about politics, young people selected aggressive, dismissive and disengaged (65 percent) almost twice as often as they selected considerate and inviting (35 percent).

Young people are watching as their parents, coaches, teachers, bosses and even spiritual mentors fail to model healthy political discourse. The result is that young people are seeing this trend toward political toxicity come up in their own exchanges and experiences. "I have had very few healthy political conversations in my lifetime. Nobody wants to listen. They just want to talk," explained Corey, 21.

Fortunately, Gen Z is course-correcting, even without much help from older adults in their lives.

Nearly half (48 percent) of all American adults say they've stopped talking to someone they disagree with politically, while few adults take time to educate themselves on what their political opponents really believe.

By contrast, 68 percent of young people have told us they

would not stop speaking to someone who strongly disagrees with or opposes their political values. At the same time, 81 percent say it's important to understand both sides of a political issue, and 84 percent agree that getting educated about the views and perspectives of others is important for seeing both sides more clearly.

While a majority of adults are avoiding conversations with those they disagree with politically, 77 percent of young people tell us they want to have conversations about political differences openly.

If it's true that a majority of Americans are exhausted by the state of our politics, then we dismiss the voices and perspectives of young people at our peril.

It is precisely young Americans whose voices we should be propping up right now—because they are eager to subvert the political polarization that has become so commonplace that we now take it for granted.






Research is showing young Americans—even those with ages in the single digits—are informed and empowered when it comes to politics. We live at a time when information is more readily accessible than ever, and Gen Z is extremely savvy when it comes to accessing that information.

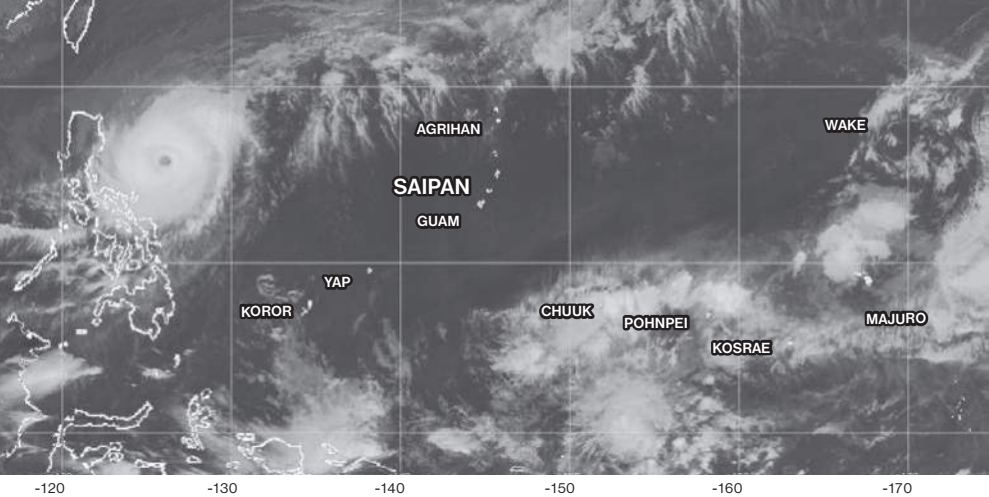
We can no longer justifiably assert that young people are naive and misinformed about politics, so we should stop treating them that way.

A brighter future for American politics is possible if we give Gen Z a seat at the table and hear what they have to say.

Kevin Singer is head of media and public relations at the Springtide Research Institute, a nonprofit that researches the social, cultural and religious views of American teenagers and young adults.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
									
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds around 10 mph in the evening becoming light.		Partly cloudy in the morning, then partly sunny in the afternoon. Isolated showers becoming scattered in the afternoon. Light and variable winds.		Partly cloudy in the morning, becoming partly sunny in the afternoon. Isolated showers becoming scattered in the afternoon.		Mostly cloudy. A 30 percent chance of showers.		Mostly cloudy. A 30 percent chance of showers.	
86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:44 AM, TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows a layer of mid-level clouds moving through the Marianas waters, with just isolated showers. Drier air will be moving in within a few hours. Fairly clear skies extend eastward to about 164E, then there is cloudiness associated with an upper-level low. The buoys reveal combined seas of 7 to 10 feet, composed mainly of a typhoon swell from just south of west.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

seconds.

If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Source: Office of the Governor

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MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	89 79 °F	
Palau	Thunderstorms	85 77 °F	
Yap	Thunderstorms	86 71 °F	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85 79 °F	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85 78 °F	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85 79 °F	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84 79 °F	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:59 AM	6:32 PM
Thursday	5:58 AM	6:32 PM
Friday	5:58 AM	6:32 PM
Saturday	5:57 AM	6:33 PM
Sunday	5:56 AM	6:33 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	1:20 AM	12:54 PM
Thursday	-	2:08 AM	1:50 PM
Friday	-	2:53 AM	2:47 PM
Saturday	-	3:38 AM	3:45 PM
Sunday	-	4:21 AM	4:43 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Sunny	66 57 °F	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	69 46 °F	
Hong Kong	Sunny	82 75 °F	
Honolulu	Sunny	84 71 °F	
London	Partly Cloudy	56 36 °F	
Los Angeles	Sunny	73 54 °F	
Manila	Thunderstorms	93 80 °F	
Melbourne	Sunny	71 49 °F	
Miami	Sunny	81 72 °F	
New York	Cloudy	61 44 °F	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	66 49 °F	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	55 33 °F	
Pusan	Sunny	71 49 °F	
Rome	Sunny	66 45 °F	
Salem	Rain	63 46 °F	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	62 52 °F	
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	66 47 °F	
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	73 50 °F	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	65 59 °F	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
3:50 AM	High Tide	1.74	
9:23 AM	Low Tide	1.30	
1:19 PM	High Tide	1.51	
8:58 PM	Low Tide	0.16	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 29, 2021			
DEPARTURES			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA117	6:30am	7:10am	1, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
UA117/183	6:30am	8:50pm	5 via Guam
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)			
UA183	7:05pm	8:50pm	5
UA183	7:15pm	9:10pm	1, 3,
ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA174	4:50am	5:31am	1, 4, 5, 6
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA184/174	9:50pm	5:31am+1	5 via Guam
MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA184	9:50pm	3:45am+1	5
UA184	10:25pm	4:10am+1	1, 3
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (<i>The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.</i>)			

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.				
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 9, 2021				
SAIPAN TO ROTA				
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1202 8:00 8:15 Daily
				1203 9:00 9:15 Daily
				1204 10:00 10:15 Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat	1205 11:00 11:15 Temporarily Unavailable
				1206 12:00 12:15 Temporarily Unavailable
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sun	1207 13:00 13:15 Temporarily Unavailable
ROTA TO SAIPAN				
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1208 14:00 14:15 Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat	1209 15:00 15:15 Daily
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sun	1210 16:00 16:15 Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	1211 17:00 17:15 Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	1212 17:00 17:15 Temporarily Unavailable
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2102 8:30 8:45 Daily
				2103 9:30 9:45 Daily
				2104 10:30 10:45 Daily
				2105 11:30 11:45 Temporarily Unavailable
				2106 12:30 12:45 Temporarily Unavailable
				2107 13:30 13:45 Temporarily Unavailable
				2108 14:30 14:45 Daily
				2109 15:30 15:45 Daily
				2110 16:30 16:45 Daily
				2111 17:30 17:45 Daily
				2112 18:30 18:45 Temporarily Unavailable

Vice principals across NMI undergo professional development

Considered as the pillars—support system—of all public schools leadership, vice principals from all of Rota, Tinian, and Saipan gathered on Monday, April 19, for a professional development.

Legal, mental health, and other leadership experts conducted the professional development as part of the school district's ongoing initiative to support the growth and suc-

cess of these school leaders.

It was also intended to recognize their contributions to the overall success of the school district.

The Public School System—led by Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred B. Ada and Associate Commissioner Eric Magofna, together with Board of Education chair Andrew L. Orsini and board member Antonio L. Borja—

spoke about the vice principals' contributions to the success of all of 20 public elementary, middle, and high schools in the CNMI.

The PSS Office of Student Support Services—led by senior director Dr. Yvonne R. Pangelinan, Instructional Technology director Dr. Bobby Cruz, and behavioral and mental health expert Dr. Jennifer Maratita, Frank Lee Borja

and Walter Mendez—focused on the school district's mental health program and stress relief techniques.

PSS legal counsel Tiberius Mocanu and Office of Public Auditor counsel Ashley Kost talked about the code of ethics and fielded questions about professional conduct, ethical principles and standards, among others. *(PSS)*

PHOTOS By PSS



From left, Tinian Elementary School vice principal Natasha Pascua, Koblerville Elementary School vice principal Merced Deleon Guerrero, and Tanapag Middle School vice principal Feliza Brel.



Even the chief state school superintendent, Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred B. Ada, has to participate in a stress relieving-designed activity.



From left, Francisco M. Sablan Middle School vice principal Carla Sablan, Marianas High School vice principal Melanie Rdiall, William S. Reyes Elementary School vice principal Jocelyn Manibusan, and Chacha Oceanview Middle School vice principal Leah Murphy participate in a technology-driven training.



From left, Oleai Elementary School vice principal Alisa Pangelinan and Tinian Jr. Sr. High School vice principal Nikita Mendiola participate in the professional development.



Office of the Public Auditor legal counsel Ashley Kost talks about the code of ethics, along with PSS legal counsel Tiberius Mocanu.



A school vice principal for 10 years, Associate Commissioner for Administration Eric Magofna delivers his remarks at the closing of last Monday's professional development and ceremony to honor his peers.



San Vicente Elementary School vice principal Ana Guerrero and Saipan Southern High School vice principal Arisa Sakai.



The PSS Student Support Services team: From left, senior director Yvonne R. Pangelinan, Angeline Orsini, Frank Lee Borja, and Walter Mendez.



Dr. Jennifer F. Maratita assists vice principals in one of their stress relief activities: watercolor painting.



From left, Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School vice principal Melisa Mendez and Garapan Elementary School vice principal Derwin Johnson are engaged in a technology-driven activity of the professional development.



From left, PSS Finance and Budget director Arlene Lizama and human resources officer Lucretia Deleon Guerrero, two of PSS' key management team members, showed up to honor the district's vice principals. Joining them are Hopwood Middle School vice principal Karen Manuel and Marianas High School vice principal Romolor Orsini.



Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred B. Ada, leftmost, joins, from left, Kagman Elementary School vice principal Peter Arriola, Associate Commissioner for Administration Eric Magofna, and Dandan Middle School vice principal Reo Arriola.



Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr. Sr. High School vice principal Annette Calvo and Instructional Technology director Dr. Bobby Cruz.

Business

Try Lohas Massage's new eye massage



MARK RABAGO

Lohas Massage is located on the second floor of the Winchell's Donut building in Susupe across Kanoa Resort.

By MARK RABAGO

mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Lohas Massage is looking after your wellbeing with an eye to improving your health by offering a new complimentary eye massage to all customers.

"Our new eye massage promotion is given free to all customers. It is done with our new eye massage device we received from Korea this March. The device has two therapy methods: heating and compression," said manager Eun Joo.

It follows Lohas Massage's free LED mask treatment introduced last year that has been a favorite of everyone who has ever experienced their soothing massage treatment.

"We included the promotion because our device helps our customers to relax and so it will be a good starter for our massage program," said Joo.

Aside from the eye massage



MARK RABAGO

Lohas Massage is offering its new eye massage gratis to those getting 60- or 90-minute massages.

treatment, Lohas Massage is also planning to introduce new massages. "We are soon starting a new facial program so

that is something our customers should look forward to. Our customers are really liking our promotions! We are very hap-

py with their comments."

Asked how the company has been faring during the pandemic, she said business is slowly going back to normal but nowhere near pre-COVID-19 days.

"Our business is getting better now. We have more regular customers. And our regular customers are bringing their close friends to our massage shop. More people are recognizing that we are still in business. This year is a really tough year for everyone. We wish to give every customer a good time spent for themselves," said Joo.

While there has been no local transmission of COVID-19 since March, Lohas Massage continues to be vigilant to safeguard customers and staff from the coronavirus.

"We have hand sanitizers at the entrance, all customers have their temperatures checked, and entrance without mask is strictly prohibited. We also do our laundries twice for more safety. Everything our customers use are sanitized before and after use," she said.

Lohas Massage offers one of the lowest rates for 60- and 90-minute massages on island: a 1-hour massage is only \$20 and the 1 1/2-hour massage is just \$30.

Established in 2014, Lohas Massage is located on the second floor of the Winchell's Donut building in Susupe across Kanoa Resort. It is open Monday-Sunday from 11am to 11pm. For more information or to set an appointment, call 235-8000 or 483-4807.



MARK RABAGO

Lohas Massage's new eye massage devices from Korea.

Restaurant Revitalization Fund in the works

By BEA CABRERA

beacabrera@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Soon, eligible businesses can take part in a Restaurant Revitalization Plan that aims to provide emergency assistance to eligible restaurants, bars and other qualifying businesses to keep their operations running.

The program, which is part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and administered by the US Small Business Administration, aims to provide restaurants with funding equal to their pandemic-related revenue loss up to \$10 million per business and no more than \$5 million per physical location. The minimum award is \$1,000. Recipients are not required to repay the funding as long as funds are used for eligible uses no later than March 11, 2023.

The application portal for this program is still being created, so the application period is not open yet.

The program will be open to all applicants and eligible entities who have experienced pandemic-related revenue loss, including restaurants food stands, food trucks, food carts, caterers, bars, saloons, lounges, taverns, snack and non-alcoholic beverage bars, bakeries (onsite sales to the public comprise at least 33% of gross receipts), brew pubs, tasting rooms, taprooms (onsite sales to the public comprise at least 33% of gross receipts), breweries and/or microbreweries (onsite sales to the public comprise at least 33% of gross receipts), Wineries and distilleries (onsite sales to the public comprise at least 33% of gross receipts), inns (onsite sales of food and beverage to the public comprise at least 33% of gross receipts) and licensed facili-

ties or premises of a beverage alcohol producer where the public may taste, sample, or purchase products.

Women, veterans, or socially or economically disadvantaged people will be given priority if they own 51% of the business. According to the US SBA website, socially disadvantaged individuals are those who have been subjected to racial or ethnic prejudice or cultural bias because of their identity as a member of a group without regard to their individual qualities. Economically disadvantaged individuals are those socially disadvantaged individuals whose ability to compete in the free enterprise system has been impaired due to diminished capital and credit opportunities as compared to others in the same business area who are not socially disadvantaged.

The Restaurant Revitalization Funds may be used for specific expenses including: Business payroll costs (including sick leave), payments on any business mortgage obligation, business rent payments (note: This does not include prepayment of rent), business debt service (both principal and interest) (note: This does not include any prepayment of principal or interest), business utility payments, business maintenance expenses, construction of outdoor seating, business supplies (including protective equipment and cleaning materials), business food and beverage expenses (including raw materials), covered supplier costs and business operating expenses.

Eligible applicants can apply SBA-recognized point of sale restaurant partners through the SBA online application portal or local SBA District Office.

Matson creates \$60K scholarship fund to mark 25 years of service in Guam, CNMI, Micronesia

In celebration of its 25th anniversary of providing service to Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands and Micronesia, Matson announced yesterday a new scholarship fund to help students in the region pursue higher education. The more than \$60,000 fund will be distributed over the next five years through colleges and universities in Guam, the CNMI, Federated States of Micronesia, and Palau.

"Matson believes in supporting education and giving back to the communities that have supported us for the past 25 years. We are excited to be able to provide these new opportunities for students throughout Micronesia," said Bernie Valencia, vice president and general manager for Guam and Micronesia.

Valencia noted that the company will be developing additional

projects throughout the year in celebration of its 25th anniversary. "In the spirit of education, we'd like to partner with industry stakeholders to introduce high school students throughout Micronesia to potential careers in the maritime industry," she added.

Matson has been serving the Pacific since 1882 and launched operations in Guam and Micronesia in 1996, and pioneered refrigerated cargo to the Pacific.

In 2016, Matson celebrated 20 years of service to Guam and Micronesia by paying tribute to Micronesia's grand master navigator Pius "Mau" Piailug by naming a vessel in Guam and Micronesia M/V Papa Mau. Additionally, the company commemorated 20 years in Micronesia through its major sponsorship of the 2016 Festival of Pacific Arts.

As part of the company's

latest fleet modernization, Matson commissioned four newly-built state-of-the-art vessels to replace seven smaller ships, all four of which are the largest ships of their kind ever built in the U.S. Two of the vessels now serve Guam—the Aloha class containerhips Daniel K. Inouye, which entered service in 2018 and Kaimana Hila, which entered service in 2019. The other two vessels, Lurline and Matsonia, support West Coast originating cargo destined for Guam and Micronesia via transshipment in Hawaii.

25 years of commitment

Matson operates weekly service to Guam from the U.S. West Coast and Honolulu with connecting service to the CNMI, Yap, Palau, Chuuk, Pohnpei, Kosrae, Majuro, Ebeye, Kwajalein, and since

2017, Okinawa. Valencia noted that operations for its Okinawa service are also managed out of Guam.

"As we celebrate our 25th anniversary, we also recognize that it comes at a time when we are emerging from a very difficult year. We want our communities in Guam, the Northern Marianas, and throughout Micronesia to know that Matson remains committed to supporting the region through its recovery the best way we know how—by providing dependable shipping, exemplary customer service, and supporting our communities in meaningful ways," she said. "We are thankful for the privilege of having served our customers in the region for the past 25 years want them to know that they can count on Matson to be here for them for the next 25 years and beyond." (PR)

Asia

1 dead, 100,000 displaced as typhoon blows near Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—An approaching powerful typhoon has left at least one person dead, another missing and prompted the evacuation of more than 100,000 people as a precaution in the eastern and central Philippines, although the unusual summer storm is not expected to blow into land, officials said Monday.

Typhoon Surigae was about 500 kilometers (310 miles) east of Infanta town in Quezon province on Monday afternoon with sustained winds of 195 kilometers (121 miles) per hour and gusts of up to 240 kph (149 mph). It is forecast to slowly move northwestward and then veer eastward away from the northern Philippines around Thursday.

Vicente Malano, administrator of the government weather agency, said a high pressure area extending from China to Japan was blocking the typhoon from blowing inland.

"We're lucky it's not going to make landfall because if it hits land, it's really going to be super devastating," said Ariel Rojas from the weather agency.

The typhoon's 900-kilometer (560-mile) band of rainclouds

and strong winds nevertheless flooded at least 22 villages and caused power outages in four provinces. More than 3,200 people and 43 ferries and cargo ships were stranded in seaports after the coast guard suspended sea travel as the typhoon blew nearer, the government disaster-response agency and the coast guard said.

A 79-year-old man died in St. Bernard town in Southern Leyte province after being hit by a falling coconut tree, the Office of Civil Defense said. Another villager in San Jose town in Northern Samar province was missing after he went to a nearby island in a motorboat to secure his farm animals, it said.

More than 29,300 families or 109,000 people were evacuated to emergency shelters as a precaution in five eastern provinces in the Bicol region, it said. Mayors said they have to open more evacuation centers to ensure social distancing during the pandemic.

"It's really tough, it's toxic, but we have no choice," Mayor Ann Gemma Ongjoco of Guinobatan town in Albay province said by telephone.



People wearing face masks as a precaution against the coronavirus line up without any physical distancing to get tested for COVID-19 at a government hospital in Jammu, India, Monday, April 19, 2021. India now has reported more than 15 million coronavirus infections, a total second only to the United States. AP

India's capital to lock down amid explosive virus surge

NEW DELHI (AP)—New Delhi imposed a weeklong lockdown Monday night to prevent the collapse of the Indian capital's health system, which authorities said had been pushed to its limit amid an explosive surge in coronavirus cases.

In scenes familiar from surges elsewhere, ambulances catapulted from one hospital to another, trying to find an

empty bed over the weekend, while patients lined up outside of medical facilities waiting to be let in. Ambulances also idled outside of crematoriums, carrying half a dozen dead bodies each. In an effort to combat crisis, India announced that it would soon expand its vaccination campaign to all adults.

"People keep arriving, in an almost collapsing situation," said Dr. Suresh Kumar, who

heads Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan Hospital, one of New Delhi's largest hospitals for treating COVID-19 patients.

Just months after India thought it had seen the worst of the pandemic, the virus is now spreading at a rate faster than at any other time, said Bhramar Mukherjee, a biostatistician at the University of Michigan who has been tracking infections in India.

The country is not alone. Several places in the world are seeing deepening crises, including Brazil and France, spurred in part by new variants. More than a year into the pandemic, deaths are on the rise again worldwide, running at nearly 12,000 per day on average, and new cases are climbing, too. Over the weekend, the global death toll passed a staggering 3 million people.

†*Vicenta Mendiola Cabrera Teregeyo*

Lovingly known as "Michang"

Date of birth: February 3, 1937 Date of Death: April 11, 2021

Predeceased by:

Father: †Jose Palacios Cabrera (Familian Tamat)
Mother: †Maria Mendiola Cabrera (Familian Damoa)
Husband: †George Litulumar Teregeyo
Father-in-law/Mother-in-law: †Pedro P. & Elena L. Teregeyo

Siblings/In-laws:

†Roberto Mendiola Tudela/Vicenta Tudela
 †Francisca Tudela Borja/Pedro Borja
 †Gabriel Mendiola Cabrera/Rosa Cabrera
 †Celia Cabrera Reyes/Antonio Reyes
 †Ramona Cabrera Sablan/Manuel Sablan
 †Rosario Cabrera Attao/Jose SN Attao
 †Probio Mendiola Cabrera
 †Vicente Mendiola Cabrera/Maria DLC Cabrera
 †Martha Cabrera Santos/Alfred F. Santos
 †Maria Mendiola Cabrera

In-laws:

†Juan Teregeyo
 †Romaldo Teregeyo
 †Antonio Teregeyo
 †Marcelo Romolor

Great grandchildren: Madelinn Cabrera

Survived by:

Children: Melvin Cabrera/Lynie
 Chereese/Leon Kellum (Jhonn, Marco, Keyon, Lance, Neveh, Omari)
 Christina Cabrera/Christopher Concepcion (Donavinn, Kirstinn, Devinn)
 Christopher (Christopher Jr., Daena, Jose)
 Cherina
 Melvin Jr.
 Steven C. Teregeyo
 Juliette M. Teregeyo/Erwin Borja (Elias)
 Lorena Cabrera (Nevaeh)
 Vickilyn M. Teregeyo/Ray Roberto
 (Lyam, Leighton, Landon, Noah, Andres)
 Remo
 Mark
 Charlene C. Teregeyo/Francisco Camacho
 Joshua
 Brennica (Narciso, Sarene)
 Ethan
 Naomi/Luis Cepeda (Jelena, Kaidan, Dillon)
 Franky Camacho/Patrick Arriola
 George Teregeyo, Jr./Francis Cepeda
 Wesley
 Raymond C. Teregeyo/Marianne C. Teregeyo
 Raymond Jr. (Rayarah)
 Marianna

Reared Sibling: Francisco Cabrera/Joanna Cabrera

In-laws: Trinidad DLC Cabrera
 Amparo T. Romolor
 Francisca Teregeyo
 Jerry Teregeyo
 Sotero Teregeyo/Priscilla Castro
 Regina Teregeyo
 Rosa Teregeyo
 Maria Teregeyo

Funeral service will be held on Wednesday, April 21, 2021, at the Holy Spirit Catholic Church, 5830 Mesa Park Dr., Las Vegas, Nevada, 89135. Family viewing will be from 8:30am-9am PST (1:30am-2am ChST on April 22). Public viewing will be from 9am-10:45am PST (2am-3:45am ChST on April 22). Holy mass will be held at 11am PST (4am ChST on April 22).

First Death Anniversary

†*Lillian Santos Tenorio*



In celebration of the First Death Anniversary of our dearly beloved †Lillian Santos Tenorio, we are humbly requesting all family, friends and relatives to join us in prayers.

Daily mass of intentions will be offered beginning April 18 to 26, 2021, as follows:

Mount Carmel Cathedral:
 Monday to Saturday-6 a.m.
 Sunday-9 a.m.

St. Jude Church:
 Monday to Saturday-6 p.m.
 Sunday-8 a.m.

Your thoughts, presence and prayers is greatly appreciated.

Thank you & Dangkulo na si Yu'us Ma'ase

The Family

World

‘Midnight hour of need’

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The prime minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines made a heartfelt plea Monday to the international community to help his country recover from a volcanic eruption that has displaced 20,000 people, saying the island nation is “in its midnight hour of need.”

“Across our land, the faces of men and women are strained and anxious. They’re hurting badly,” Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves told the U.N. Security Council, saying his country is confronting “a monumental challenge of humanitarian relief.”

La Soufrière, the volcano on the Caribbean island of St. Vincent, unleashed its first big eruption of ash and hot gas April 9, a day after the government ordered people to evacuate homes nearby. Subsequent explosions have followed.

Thousands of people have been living in government shelters, some of which have been struggling to provide basic supplies, and water systems are shut down in many parts of the island.

The U.N.’s resident coordinator for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean said last week that the island was facing “a humanitarian crisis that is growing and may con-



Ash rises into the air as La Soufrière volcano erupts on the eastern Caribbean island of St. Vincent, Tuesday, April 13, 2021. AP PHOTO/ORVIL SAMUEL

tinue for weeks and months.” It is happening as St. Vincent and the Grenadines contends with the coronavirus pandemic and the approaching hurricane season.

A Venezuelan navy ship has delivered water and other

» St. Vincent pleads for global help

supplies to St. Vincent, and Caribbean island nations are sending aid. The U.N. has released \$1 million from an emergency response fund, according to Secretary-General Antonio Guterres’ office, and the world body will soon be launching an emergency appeal for money to fund the

humanitarian effort and the early phase of recovery for the next six months.

Speaking at a virtual U.N. Security Council meeting about regional organizations, Gonsalves praised them and the U.N. for their assistance so far but said much more is needed.

“Without effective cooperation between our country, the United Nations and our regional and sub-regional organizations, our life and living will be wholly unbearable,” he said and urged the global community to be generous.

“Please help St. Vincent and the Grenadines in its midnight hour of need,” he said.

ments, Borrell said after a virtual meeting of the EU foreign ministers that, “for the time being, there is no move in the field of more sanctions” to be imposed on Russia. He also said there wasn’t a request for a synchronized EU diplomatic move of expulsions in the standoff between Czech Republic, an EU member state, and Russia following Prague’s accusation that Moscow was involved in a 2014 ammunition depot explosion.

Colombia peace court alarmed over killings of former rebels

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)—Colombia’s postwar reconciliation tribunal said Monday that violence against former guerrilla fighters and community leaders is increasing in rural areas and jeopardizing its attempts to investigate crimes that took place during six decades of conflict that killed an estimated 260,000 people and forced millions to flee their homes. The court known as the Special Jurisdiction for Peace was set up in 2016 following a peace deal between the government of Colombia and the country’s biggest guerrilla movement, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia. On Monday, the tribunal’s president said that at least 276 former rebels have been killed since laying down their weapons in December 2016 and that 900 community leaders have been slain as well. The court said that 252 of those former rebels had been summoned to collaborate with its investigations.

Good Housekeeping

Flushable? No, no, no. Here’s the ‘dirty dozen’

By **HOWARD COHEN**
MIAMI HERALD

The Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department has 6,452 miles of sewer water pipes flowing into three wastewater treatment plants that treat about 300 million gallons of waste water every day.

On Friday, Feb. 22, the county tweeted out an educational video showing a worker cleaning out a nasty clump of wipes from a plant’s drain—one of 668 it was tasked with unclogging in the 2017-2018 calendar year.

Doesn’t sound like a lot, per se, when you factor in all those miles. But when it happens to you, or your nearby neighbors, it can be costly. Not to mention, gross.

According to Angie’s List, the cost to unclog a toilet drain can cost up to \$400. Home Advisor says the national average is \$213, with a low end of \$85 to a high of \$525.

THINK BEFORE YOU FLUSH

“Flushing anything other than toilet paper and human waste can result in costly repairs for you,” the county tweeted as part of its #ThinkBeforeYouFlush! campaign.

The county also released its list of “The Dirty Dozen.”

Chief among them are the “flushable wipes,” as touted on many packages. They really aren’t.

Under a heading they call “No wipes in the Pipes,” the



“Flushable wipes,” as touted on many packages, really aren’t. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

county suggests that you try an experiment to prove their point that flushable wipes don’t belong in the john.

Sounds like a recipe:

■ Place toilet paper in a mixing bowl with water and mix at a low to medium speed.

■ Place a wet wipe in a mixing bowl with water and mix at a low to medium speed.

“Note the difference. Toilet paper immediately breaks apart. The wet wipe will likely remain intact. Wet wipes must be disposed in garbage cans,” the county said.

BEYOND FLUSHABLE WIPES

Miami-Dade also wants you to know that most of the grease that clogs the county’s wastewater system comes from single-family, apartment and condo residents. They want you to can it.

“Be sure to get rid of fats, oils and grease the right way. After you are done cooking, pour the grease into a metal can and let it cool. Then, toss the can into a garbage bin. Don’t pour it down the sink or flush it down the toilet,” they counsel.

The other culprits include:

■ Sanitary items. You can probably add condoms to the no-flush list, too.

- Paper towels and rags.
- Q-tips and cotton balls.
- Diapers.
- Dental floss.
- Medicines and vitamins.
- Adhesive bandages.

These don’t decompose right away and can meet others in the pipes and bond just like they do to your skin.

■ Cigarettes and cigar tips.

The county doesn’t say this, but if you do dispose of your smokes, douse them in water first before tossing them in the trash.

■ Needles.

WEIRD THINGS IN THE BOWL

Ragsdale, a Dallas, Georgia-based plumbing company, came up with its own Five Weirdest Things That Cause Clogged Pipes in Homes list. Adhesive bandages, dentures, animals and toys, cellphones, and tea made the Top 5.

No, people aren’t disposing of their dentures or smartphones in the toilet or sinks but they commonly find their way into wastewater. Sometimes you put your dentures in a cup of water overnight and accidentally knock them over into the sink or nearby toilet.

And smartphones? You know you’ve texted while doing your business. Now add fumble fingers. Hear that splash?

YOUR PLACE

How to rid your floor of stuck-on rubber rug padding

By **ALAN J. HEAVENS**
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

Question: My parents have a 9-foot-by-12-foot area rug, which is in excellent condition, in their bedroom.

Under the rug is green foam-rubber padding that has become as hard as a rock over the years and has stuck to the hardwood flooring like paint.

I have tried a plastic scraper with no luck. I used a 2-inch-wide metal scraper that removes the rubber but is time-consuming.

I have not scratched or marred the hardwood flooring. Is there an easier method?

Answer: As strange as it seems, when I received your question, I took a look under our living room rug to check the condition of the padding there. Though some of it had

crumbled, it wasn’t sticking to the floor.

Checking on the internet with the usual grain of salt, I discovered that the metal-blade scraper was the most-touted method of removal without scratching, even though it took one woman 26 hours.

She didn’t say whether this was 26 hours at once without a break, or 26 hours over a period of months or years.

Angie’s List, which said it asked professionals, recommended using such solvents as paint thinner or soapy water to loosen the glued padding and then scraping or sanding it off.

Frankly, given indoor air-quality issues, I’d go with the soapy water, but not a lot, because you might cause the floor to warp.

There were some YouTube videos available showing a variety of ways to remove glued-on padding, but most involved projects that required

removal before a new floor was installed, so the condition of the hardwood floor underneath was not an issue.

These are all sources available to you by Googling, but here’s my advice:

A job worth doing is one that’s worth doing well. If the metal scraper is working, no matter how time-consuming it is, go with it.

As far as using paint thinner or soapy water, one requires proper ventilation, including a mask, and the right clothing for protection.

If the job is important to you, and you are pressed for time, it might be best to contact a professional to do it.

Money well-spent.

Contact Alan J. Heavens at atheavens@phillynews.com or write him at The Philadelphia Inquirer, Box 8263, Philadelphia PA 19101. Volume prohibits individual replies.

WORLD BRIEFS

First schools reopen in Mexico in southern state of Campeche

MEXICO CITY (AP)—For the first time in a year, Mexican school children returned to classrooms Monday—at least in the southern state of Campeche. Campeche, on Mexico’s Gulf coast, has been the state least affected by the pandemic in Mexico, and it was the first to get its teachers vaccinated. Grade-school students in Campeche are the first, and so far the only, students in Mexico’s 32 states to return to classrooms. However, vaccinations for teachers in five more states with relatively low levels of coronavirus cases are scheduled to start Tuesday. While it may have been good to get back to school, the scene in Campeche was different from before: Students were allowed back in small groups to maintain social distancing, and they wore face masks and plastic face shields.

EU warns “spark” could set off escalation at Ukraine borders

BRUSSELS (AP)—The European Union’s foreign policy chief said Monday that in the face of the big military buildup of Russian troops near Ukraine’s borders, it will only take “a spark” to set off a confrontation. In a glum assessment of relations with Moscow, Josep Borrell also said that the condition of imprisoned Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny was “critical” and that the 27-nation group would hold the Kremlin accountable for his health and safety. Despite the develop-

Life & Style

'Downton Abbey' cast returns for sequel opening in December

NEW YORK (AP)—The original principal cast of "Downton Abbey" are returning for a second film that will arrive in theaters December 22 this year, Focus Features announced Monday.

"Downton Abbey" creator Julian Fellowes has written the sequel's screenplay, and Simon Curtis ("My Week With Marilyn") is directing.

Hugh Bonneville, Michelle Dockery and 86-year-old Maggie Smith will all be back, along with some new faces, including Hugh Dancy, Laura Haddock, Nathalie Baye and Dominic West.

Production began last week on "Downton Abbey 2."

"After a very challenging year with so many of us separated from family and friends,

it is a huge comfort to think that better times are ahead and that next Christmas we will be re-united with the much beloved characters of 'Downton Abbey,'" said producer Gareth Neame.

The 2019 film, coming three years after the series ending, made \$194.3 million on a modest budget of less than \$20 million.

One of largest casino projects on Vegas Strip sets opening

LAS VEGAS (AP)—One of the biggest casino projects ever on the Las Vegas Strip has set a date to open, after more than seven years of planning and building.

Resorts World Las Vegas announced Monday that it will open to the public June 24 and began taking reservations for more than 3,500 rooms at its three Hilton-branded hotels.

The first ground-up resort built on the Strip in more than a decade will open during a pandemic that has upended the Las Vegas economy with business restrictions intended to slow the spread of COVID-19. Nevada Gov. Steve Sisolak has set a June 1 goal for 100% reopening of businesses shuttered in March 2020.

The resort is on the site of the former Stardust, an iconic Las Vegas landmark that was the largest hotel in the world when it opened in 1958 with 1,500 rooms. It closed in 2006 and was owned by Boyd Gaming Corp. when its 32-story tower was imploded in March 2007.

Malaysia-based Genting Group, an operator of resorts

and casinos around the world, bought the site in 2013 from Boyd Gaming for \$350 million.

The \$4.3 billion project has been under construction since May 2015.

Scott Sibella, president of Resorts World Las Vegas, acknowledged the years of work included delays and re-designs to reshape the Asian theme of the big 88-acre (35.6-hectare) property.

"We are filled with gratitude and excitement as we approach our opening ... and hope to play a role in Las Vegas' rebound after what has been an incredibly challenging year," Sibella said in a statement. A time for doors to open was not immediately disclosed.

The property has emerged as a curved, red 59-story structure with a huge dynamic LED facade facing Las Vegas Boulevard. The owner calls the 100,000-square-foot (9,290-square-meter) display one of the largest in the U.S.

Its three hotels—dubbed Las Vegas Hilton at Resorts World, Conrad Las Vegas at Resorts World, and Croc-fords Las Vegas, LXR Hotels and Resorts—are designed to

offer a range of amenities.

Announcements in recent weeks have focused on Zouk Nightclub and AYU Dayclub headliners including Zedd and Tiësto, booked with Singapore-based Zouk Group.

The scale of the complex is huge among Strip resorts, with more than 40 restaurants, eateries and beverage outlets; multiple retail shops and stores; a 117,000-square-foot (10,870-square-meter) casino; and 250,000 square feet (23,226 square meters) of meeting and banquet space.

The resort also will include a 5.5-acre (2.2-hectare) pool and spa complex with seven swimming pools.

AEG Presents will partner with the resort in a 5,000-capacity concert and entertainment theater programmed and operated by Concerts West. The Las Vegas Review-Journal has reported possible headliners including Katy Perry, Celine Dion, Carrie Underwood and Luke Bryan.

Resorts World also will have a station connected by developer Elon Musk's underground Tesla vehicle transit with the renovated Las Vegas Convention Center.

Sale of Chinese painting shows art value rising in pandemic

HONG KONG (AP)—A Chinese painting from 1924 is expected to fetch at least \$45 million in an auction in Hong Kong, as collectors' appetite for art continues to rise even amid economic uncertainty brought about by the coronavirus pandemic.

The painting by influential Chinese modern artist Xu Beihong depicts a slave hiding in a cave and a lion. It is based thematically from ancient Roman mythology and Aesop's Fables, according to Christie's auction house, which unveiled the painting Monday.

Xu frequently uses the lion in his work to exemplify his

faith in the rise of the Chinese nation. The lion in the painting is wounded, but remains dignified, righteous and proud — a symbol of the Chinese spirit, the auction house said.

The "Slave and Lion" painting is considered a groundbreaking work that inspired Xu's later paintings and one of the most important oil paintings in Chinese art history.

"Xu Beihong himself is one of the most important modern artists in China who has influenced generations of painters and artists," said Francis Belin, President of Christie's in Asia Pacific.

"That kind of work and that kind of size, and that kind of prestige, does not come to the market very often."

The painting is estimated to fetch between \$45 million to \$58 million in a single-lot auction on May 24.

Belin said there is a diverse appetite for modern and contemporary masterpieces and the market is expected to remain strong.

Last year, a 700-year-old Chinese painted scroll titled "Five Drunken Princes Returning on Horseback" from the Yuan Dynasty fetched \$41.8 million at a Sotheby's auction in Hong Kong.



A painting by Chinese modern artist Xu Beihong, titled "Slave and Lion," is displayed during a Christie's auction preview in Hong Kong, Monday, April 19, 2021. AP

Man wants to quit trying after wife's multiple miscarriages

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have had a total of six miscarriages—one before our miracle son and five since we began trying for a second child more than two years ago.

I always wanted a boatload of children, but my husband and I agreed on two before we got married. Now he wants to call it quits. He doesn't want to keep trying because he sees the emotional toll each loss has on me. I want to get a second opinion from a fertility specialist who helped a friend with similar issues.

The only way I know how to describe the way I feel is that it feels as though "someone" is missing from our family. I ache and long for and miss that person, even though I've never met them. I know deep in my soul, that they are supposed to be here. Missing them doesn't mean I love my husband and son any less. But as much as I love those two, I also miss that person. What should my husband and I do?

CHALLENGED IN TEXAS

DEAR CHALLENGED: Please accept my heartfelt sympathy. Clearly you have been through a wrenching time, and your loving husband is reluctant to see you continue to suffer as you have been. You and your husband should talk to the fertility specialist who helped your friend. However,

if more treatment is unsuccessful, it will be time for you to seek a referral to a licensed psychotherapist who can help you cope with your disappointment and loss.

Because you can't escape the feeling that someone is missing, perhaps you might consider using a surrogate, fostering or adopting a child who needs a loving home and family.

DEAR ABBY: I have been single for almost three years. I recently started dating a man who, I have realized over the past few weeks, has a problem with me spending time with friends without him. I have explained that it is a healthy and normal thing to have friends and to go do things with them. I have explained that he has nothing to worry about because I am respectful of our relationship and a faithful girlfriend. I have also begun to notice that he has no friends.

I have told him he is coming across as controlling. I don't want this to be a problem with him, and I don't know how to get him to see that it's normal for people to go and have fun as friends. My friends are classmates of mine, both male and female, and younger than I am. One of them is gay. I have explained that as well to my boyfriend. Am I overthinking this as a potential problem or is this truly a red flag?

CATCHING IT NOW IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR CATCHING IT: You are not overthinking anything, and yes, this is a red flag—not a potential one. The person you have described appears to be so insecure that any activity you have that doesn't include him is perceived as a threat. The longer you remain involved with this person, the harder he will try to socially isolate you. Please do not allow that to happen. End it now.

Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 English stat
4 "— Harbor" the tab (2009 Colson coolers
33 "No argument here!"
7 Suitor here!"
8 Physicist Enrico
10 Impose (upon)
11 Narcotic
13 Geometric shape
16 Pub order
17 Smidgens
18 Roth svgs.
19 Picnic plan
20 Item on stage
21 Hunger indicators
23 "Anticipation" singer Simon
25 Employer
26 Get up

DOWN

14 Youngsters
15 "The Raven" monogram
19 Reply (Abbr.)
20 Opposite of "post-"
21 Casual shirts
22 Shrewd
23 "Arrive-derci!"
24 On both sides of
25 Inlet
26 Takes five
28 Tire pattern
29 Oboes and clarinets, e.g.
30 Shoelace tip
31 Scorch
32 Farm pen
34 Jason's ship
35 Privy to

Solution time: 23 mins.

Yesterday's answer 4-21

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Nicole Huff, 23; Rob Riggle, 51; Andie MacDowell, 63; Iggy Pop, 74.

Happy Birthday: Uncertainty is a red flag to reevaluate and consider your options before you make a move. Patience, gathering knowledge and preparation will be essential if you want to get ahead. Time is on your side, and verifying facts will pay off. Leave nothing to chance. Take care of responsibilities personally. Concentrate on self-improvement, not trying to change others. Your numbers are 4, 16, 21, 25, 32, 41, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Reconnect with an old friend or someone you like to collaborate with regarding work or shared interests, and it will lift your spirits and encourage you to head in an exciting direction. Don't give up on your aspirations; initiate your dream. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't feel pressured to accommodate others. Social gatherings will put you in harm's way. Follow the rules and regulations, and you will avoid a setback that can affect your mental, physical or emotional well-being. Make fitness, nutrition and a healthy lifestyle your priorities. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Keep your thoughts to yourself. Take note of what others do and say, but don't get into a senseless spat over something trivial. Focus on what you can do to make your life better and your surroundings more comfortable, convenient and rejuvenating. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Take a moment to go over your financial situation. Spending on something that you don't

need or making a donation you cannot afford will set you back. Look for diverse ways to use your skills to get ahead. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You'll face opposition if you try to do things differently. Stick to the instructions, and you'll avoid being in a vulnerable position that can affect your reputation as well as your relationships with others. Don't mix business with pleasure. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Dig in and finish what you start. A new opportunity will come your way if you do a good job. Don't let what others do interfere with your plans. Honor your promises, and it will influence the way others treat you. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Take part in something you feel passionate about, and you'll make a difference in the outcome. Someone you connect with will offer exciting solutions. Offer time, not money, to avoid a loss or added stress. Be true to beliefs and goals. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take a moment to recap what's happening around you. Rethink your plans and consider your options. It's time to do things differently, let go of the past and move forward with confidence. Do what's best for you. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Gather information, verify what you hear and plan to make adjustments that encourage better relationships with the people you cherish. Take on a new project that interests you, or sign up for a course to help you get ahead. ★★★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Address emotional issues swiftly. If you let things fester, you'll have difficulty main-

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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taining a good rapport with those you count on personally or professionally. Make getting along with colleagues, friends and relatives a priority. Romance is in the stars. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Listen carefully and respond with compassion and understanding. Look for solutions instead of dwelling on negativity. Don't limit what you can do because someone chooses to do things differently. Do something you enjoy, and explore new possibilities. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Pay attention to detail, focus on using your skills uniquely, and deal with challenges openly. Be the one who solves problems, and you will get the support you need to carry out your ideas. Don't let domestic issues interfere with work. ★★

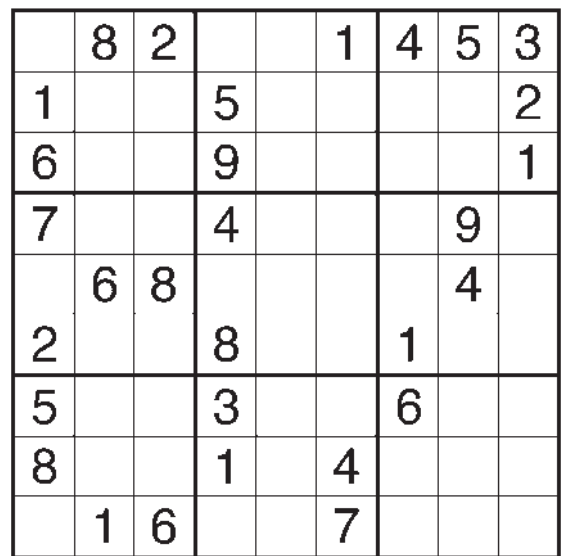
Birthday Baby: You are impatient, productive and persistent. You are energetic and engaging.

★ star: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ★★ stars: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ★★★ stars: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ★★★★★ stars: Aim high; start new projects. ★★★★★ stars: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

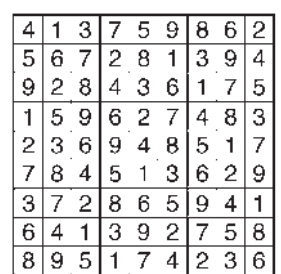


Difficulty Level ★★

4/21

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★

1/21

WONDERWORD

By DAVID CUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them. Circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

ZOOM MEETINGS

Solution: 5 letters

A T I M S N A R T S Y N C S E
R S E E D U C A T E N O H P L
T A S C D N H S T H S P P A I
N P D I H C D N S T A T U S B
E L O N S N E F S L R A T O O
M A R K E T I N G A O S O S M
N T C R N L A C I E O S R F
R F T O E E A N A H D N P E I
E O C S N G I G C L E U B P N
V R E G A N G I S E B V O O A
O M A M G I E S R L D I A L N
G G A H T V E C I V E D R E C
E E L A S I S C T F E E D V I
T S E C U R I T Y E T O S E A
A F F O R D A B L E D S S D L

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4/21

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Yesterday's Answer: Comedians

Treasures 24 through 41 can be purchased online at
www.WonderWordBooks.com.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

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Jazz avenge loss with 111-97 win over Lakers in rematch



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jordan Clarkson scored 22 points, Joe Ingles added 21 with five 3-pointers and the Utah Jazz beat the Los Angeles Lakers 111-97 Monday night, splitting their series with the defending NBA champs.

Bojan Bogdanovic scored 19 points as NBA-leading Utah avenged the Lakers' 127-115 overtime victory on Saturday night. The Jazz rested Rudy Gobert, Mike Conley Jr. and Derrick Favors in the first game on the second night of a back-to-back set, but all three returned for the rematch at Staples Center.

"We still have a lot of work to do, but I think we can compete with any team in this league," Favors said. "I think we're going to see this team again down the road, so we just wanted to do the things we needed to get a win."

Leading scorer Donovan Mitchell is still out for Utah, while LeBron James and Anthony Davis are still out for Los Angeles.

Talen Horton-Tucker scored a career-high 24 points for the Lakers, who dropped to 7-9 without both of their superstars and 14-16 since Davis went down on Valentine's Day.

"These guys are as good as anyone in the league with the read-drive offense," Lakers coach Frank Vogel said of the Jazz. "They're patient. They look for great shots at the rim or great shots at the perimeter. If they don't have it, they work the possession until they get it. That's why their record is what it is, and obviously we weren't good enough tonight."

Kyle Kuzma scored all of his 17 points in the first three quarters for Los Angeles, and Dennis Schröder had 15 points and six assists. The Lakers have alternated wins and losses for 12 consecutive games since March 28.

"I think we kind of gave in a little bit," Kuzma said. "On the offensive end, shots really didn't fall, and a couple of bad possessions led to a lack of effort on the defensive end — guys getting open 3s, Rudy getting a couple of dunks, guys getting downhill a little bit easier."

Clarkson hit nine of his 14 shots and Ingles went 8 for 11 against the NBA's top defensive team for Utah, which never trailed in its fifth victory in seven games. The Jazz doubled their halftime lead to 20 points in the third quarter with 13 from Ingles, who hit three 3-pointers in that stretch.

"I thought we came out with a good focus at the beginning of the game," Jazz coach Quin Snyder said. "Any time we play a team and we build a little



Utah Jazz guard Jordan Clarkson, center, shoots over Los Angeles Lakers center Andre Drummond, left, during the first half of an NBA basketball game Monday, April 19, 2021, in Los Angeles.

bit of a lead, we know they're going to raise their level. That's a good performance for us."

Warriors 107, 76ers 96

In Philadelphia, Stephen Curry stripped off his No. 30 jersey and handed stuffed duffle bags full of memorabilia to a Delaware state trooper who stopped in full uniform to shoot hoops on the playground with neighborhood kids.

"That's Curry! That's Curry!" one kid yelled after Joshua Morris shot a long 3.

Curry put on a 3-point spectacle in Philly worthy of the trooper's own effort.

Curry hit 10 3-pointers and scored 49 points to extend his sizzling stretch, leading the Golden State Warriors to a 107-96 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers on Monday night.

Morris later gifted the kid on the video — he called him his "hype man" — a pair of Curry's basketball sneakers. The video caught Curry's attention and he invited Morris and guests to the game. Curry posed for pictures after the game and walked back to the locker room without a shirt.

"He's an amazing story ... with the little kid that was hyping him up," Curry said. "I had to show him some love. The love he showed the young man and just the foundation of impact that he shared. It's pretty impressive."

Curry wasn't so bad himself.

Heat 113, Rockets 91

In Miami, the Miami Heat were missing their three leading scorers, and still had more than enough to get past the Houston Rockets.

Kendrick Nunn scored a season-high 30 points, Duncan Robinson and Goran Dragic each added 19 and Miami beat Houston 113-91 on Monday night.

The Heat were playing without Jimmy Butler, Bam Adebayo and Tyler Herro — a trio that averages 55 points per

game — and outscored Houston 59-36 after halftime.

"That's our culture, guys being ready to go and guys wanting to leave their mark on the game," said Miami's Andre Iguodala, who scored 16 points. "Tonight was one of those nights where we had a lot of guys leave their mark."

Iguodala played 28 minutes and the Heat outscored the Rockets by 38 points when he was on the floor. It was the fourth-highest plus-minus of Iguodala's career.

"Andre was terrific tonight," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said.

Suns 128, Bucks 127, OT

In Milwaukee, Devin Booker said he knew he'd been fouled as he put up a shot in the final second of overtime. His coach agreed.

"I heard the slap," Phoenix Suns coach Monty Williams said. "I was just concerned as to when it happened. I wanted to make sure it happened before the buzzer went off."

It did—barely.

Officials determined P.J. Tucker fouled Booker before time expired and put 0.3 seconds on the clock. Booker made the first of two free throws amid a chorus of boos from the Milwaukee crowd to give the Suns a 128-127 overtime victory over the Bucks on Monday night.

"I don't think anybody was arguing that it was a foul or not," Booker said. "I think they were seeing if the foul happened before or after the horn. It was a smack across the wrist that was very loud. The ref made the right call."

That final sequence took place after Milwaukee's Khris Middleton had tied the game on a 3-pointer with 22.1 seconds left.

Jae Crowder inbounded a pass to Booker, who attempted to get free for a shot while getting hounded by Jrue Holiday.

Holiday reached his left arm out at one point, and Tucker

converged and had his right arm near Booker just as the Suns guard shot from in front of Phoenix's bench. Officials determined Tucker's right arm hit Booker's left elbow.

Wizards 119, Thunder 107

In Washington, Bradley Beal scored 30 points, Davis Bertans made six 3-pointers in his return from paternity leave, and the Washington Wizards beat the Oklahoma City Thunder 119-107 on Monday night.

Bertans, who missed the previous two games while his wife gave birth to a son, finished with 21 points while making half of his dozen 3-point attempts. The Wizards have won five straight, matching a season high, and seven of eight to claw back into playoff contention in the Eastern Conference.

"It's a great feeling of knowing we're figuring it out, guys are growing and guys are starting to really play top-level basketball," Beal said. "It definitely sucks that it kind of happens sort of at the end of the year."

Russell Westbrook had 13 points, 17 assists and 11 rebounds for Washington. His 26th triple-double this season was only in doubt because of his dreadful shooting; Westbrook missed nine straight shots in the second half before a 3-pointer that gave the Wizards a nine-point lead with 3:47 left. He has 172 triple-doubles, closing in on Oscar Robertson's record of 181.

Spurs 109, Pacers 94

In Indianapolis, Derrick White and Jakob Poeltl took advantage of their early mismatches by delivering a quick knockout punch and leading the San Antonio Spurs to a 109-94 victory over short-handed Indiana on Monday night.

White scored 16 of his 25 points in the first quarter, while Poeltl finished with 16 points and seven rebounds in the

Spurs' second straight win.

"I think we were aggressive and decisive on offense," Poeltl said. "We didn't hesitate, we just kind of went for it. I thought our defense was really good against Phoenix as well and that's just what fueled us. We're playing with more energy now and it's showing up in games."

It certainly did against the short-handed Pacers.

Malcolm Brogdon and Caris LeVert each scored 18 to lead Indiana, which has lost three in a row. But this time, the Pacers were without two-time All-Star Domantas Sabonis (sore lower back) and defensive player of the year candidate Myles Turner (right foot) as well as T.J. Warren, who will miss the rest of the season with a stress fracture in his left foot. Turner's replacement, Goga Bitadze, also didn't finish the game because of a sprained left ankle.

Bulls 102, Celtics 96

In Boston, the Bulls have a difficult road to travel if they want to secure a spot in the playoffs.

But they feel like replicating their defensive effort from the past two games might be the thing that helps them get there.

Nikola Vucevic had 29 points and nine rebounds, and the Chicago held off the Boston Celtics 102-96 on Monday night.

Coby White added 19 points and seven assists to help the Bulls snap Boston's season-high six-game winning streak. Chicago has won its last two since a five-game skid to nudge in front of Toronto for 10th place in the Eastern Conference standings. Both wins have come without guard Zach LaVine, who remained in the health and safety protocols for the third straight game.

"We're in a fight for our lives," said Bulls guard Garrett Temple. "Every detail, every play matters. Guys are playing really hard, and I like that."

What coach Billy Donovan liked best is how his team is competing on the defensive end, holding each of its last two opponents under 100 points.

Pistons 107, Cavaliers 103

In Detroit, Frank Jackson scored 20 points, including a tiebreaking baseline drive in the final minute, lifting the Detroit Pistons to a 109-105 victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers on Monday night.

Jackson was fouled on his basket with 29 seconds left. He missed the free throw but the Cavaliers couldn't secure the rebound. Josh Jackson grabbed it and then scored to go up 107-103 with 16.5 seconds remaining, giving the Cavaliers their fifth loss in six games.

Collin Sexton scored 28 points and Darius Garland added 23 for the Cavaliers. The backcourt scored the final 20 points for Cleveland, which is fading in the race for the play-in tournament in the Eastern Conference.

Saddiq Bey scored 20 points for the Pistons, who started three rookies and a second-year player making his first career start.

Nuggets 139, Grizzlies 137, 2OT

In Denver, Nikola Jokic scored 47 points, including a go-ahead 3-pointer late in the second overtime, and the Denver Nuggets rallied to beat the Memphis Grizzlies 139-137 on Monday night.

Jokic added 15 rebounds and eight assists, Will Barton scored 28 and Michael Porter Jr. 21 for the shorthanded Nuggets. Denver played without its top two point guards—Jamal Murray, who has a torn ACL in his left knee and Monte Morris.

Jokic burnished his MVP credentials by carrying the Nuggets to their third straight win since Murray went down.

"Life is about a bunch of little moments and I think Nikola's got around 56 little moments this year where he's shown he's the MVP," Denver coach Michael Malone said. "Tonight was a character win."

Morris recently missed 11 games with a left quad injury but returned April 4 and played eight games. He hurt his left hamstring in Friday night's win at Houston and will likely miss multiple games, Malone said before the game against the Grizzlies.

Red Sox beat Giolito, White Sox 11-4 on Patriots' Day



BOSTON
(AP)—Kiké Hernández led

off with a replay-aided home run and Bobby Dalbec worked a 14-pitch walk in a six-run first inning against Lucas Giolito, helping the Red Sox beat the Chicago White Sox 11-4 on Monday in the first Patriots' Day game played apart from the Boston Marathon.

The Marathon was moved to Oct. 11 because of Massachusetts limits on crowds during the novel coronavirus pandemic. The Patriots Day game, with a start shortly after 11 a.m., has been played by the Red Sox since 1959. It drew a limited crowd of 4,738.

Giolito (1-1) was removed with two on and no outs in the second. He allowed eight runs—seven earned—and eight hits as his ERA more than doubled from 2.55 to 5.79.

Nathan Eovaldi (3-1) matched his career-high with 10 strikeouts in 6 1/3 innings, allowing four runs and nine hits with no walks.

Brewers 3, Padres 1

In San Diego, Brandon Woodruff and three relievers combined on a two-hitter and Luis Urias homered in his return to Petco Park before leaving with an injury as Milwaukee beat Joe Musgrove and San Diego.

Billy McKinney also homered off Musgrove (2-2), who set a career-high with 13 strikeouts in his first home start since throwing the Padres' first no-hitter on April 9 at Texas. The big right-hander, who grew up in suburban El Cajon, is 0-2 since throwing the no-no.

Pinch-hitter Tyrone Taylor hit Milwaukee's third homer of the night, off Drew Pomeranz, leading off the eighth.

Woodruff (1-0) held San Diego to one run and one hit in six innings, struck out seven and walked three. J.P. Feyereisen walked one in the seventh, Brent Suter gave up a single to Caratini in the eighth and Josh Hader pitched the ninth for his second save.

Mariners 4, Dodgers 3

In Seattle, rookie Taylor Trammell homered and added a key RBI double, third baseman Dylan Moore thwarted a Dodgers rally with a terrific defensive play in the seventh and Seattle beat Los Angeles in a matchup of early season division leaders.

Seattle handed the Dodgers a second straight loss, the first time on the young season Los Angeles dropped consecutive games. It came on the strength of a couple long balls off Dodgers starter Dustin May (1-1) and a strong start by Justus Sheffield.

José Marmolejos got Seattle



Boston Red Sox's J.D. Martinez celebrates his solo home run in the second inning of a baseball game against the Chicago White Sox at Fenway Park, Monday, April 19, 2021, in Boston.

run allowed by Joe Ross (1-1) in three games this season after he sat out 2020 because of COVID-19 concerns. DeJong later ended the right-hander's evening with another drive to left, this one off a high fastball after Dylan Carlson was walked intentionally to load the bases, making it 10-2 in the fifth.

Flaherty (3-0) is used to that sort of cushion. The Cardinals are averaging 11 runs in his four starts this season — and 3.25 runs in the 12 games started by other pitchers.

Rays 4, Royals 1

In Kansas City, Mo., Josh Fleming pitched two-hit ball into the sixth inning, and Kevin Kiermaier led a strong effort from the bottom of Tampa Bay's batting order.

Fleming (1-1) struck out three in 5 1/3 innings, getting big cheers from friends and family who journeyed over from his hometown of Bridgeton, Missouri. The 24-year-old left-hander has allowed just one run in 10 1/3 innings this year.

Relievers Ryan Thompson and Hunter Strickland carried the baton out of the bullpen and held Kansas City to two hits, both in the eighth. Chris Mazza shut the door in the ninth.

Danny Duffy (2-1) struck out eight in six innings and allowed two runs — neither earned — and four hits with two walks.

Rangers 6, Angels 4

In Anaheim, Calif., Adolis García homered and doubled off Dylan Bundy, Kohei Aihara took a shutout into the sixth inning and Texas got its offense on track.

Texas eclipsed its entire output during a three-game home series against Baltimore over the weekend, when it totaled just four runs.

Justin Upton homered for the Angels, while Bundy (0-2) gave up five runs and seven hits and was knocked out the game during the Rangers' five-run sixth inning. The right-hander had six strikeouts with two walks.

Aihara (2-1), in his fourth major league start, retired Angels star Shohei Ohtani in two at-bats, although one was a deep fly to center that García caught while crashing into the padded wall. Aihara and Ohtani were teammates in Japan with the Nippon Ham Fighters from 2015-17.

started with a two-run shot in the first inning that barely cleared the wall in right field. Trammell, one of Seattle's top young prospects, added a solo homer to deep left-center in the second inning, and his RBI double with two outs in the fourth capitalized on an error by second baseman Chris Taylor for a 4-2 lead.

Sheffield (1-1) threw 5 2/3 innings, allowing four hits, three

walks and striking out six.

Giants 2, Phillies 0

In Philadelphia, Brandon Belt hit a two-run homer, Kevin Gausman niftily pitched out of trouble in six innings and San Francisco beat Philadelphia.

San Francisco's Gabe Kapler became the first manager in major league baseball history to start his career 200-

200. Kapler, who was 161-163 as Philadelphia's manager in 2018-19, was booed when he brought out the lineup card.

Gausman (1-0) allowed six hits, walked four and struck out five. He lowered his ERA to 2.45. Wandy Peralta finished off the seven-hitter for his second save.

Phillies starter Chase Anderson (0-2) yielded two runs and five hits in four innings.

Cardinals 12, Nationals 5

In Washington, Paul DeJong hit two of St. Louis' five homers, including a grand slam, Tommy Edman and Paul Goldschmidt went deep back-to-back and the Cardinals offered Jack Flaherty his usual strong run support.

DeJong clanged a solo shot off the left-field foul pole in the second inning for the first

Alex Smith retires after comeback from gruesome leg injury

STEPHEN WHYNO
AP SPORTS WRITER



Alex Smith retired Monday after making an improbable comeback from a gruesome broken leg, saying he's ready to leave the NFL but believing he's still able to play quarterback.

Smith made the announcement on Instagram a few weeks shy of his 37th birthday, hoping to enjoy more time with his family.

"I want to say thank you for believing in me, and thank you for helping me believe in myself — and in the impossible," Smith said. "Because even though I've got plenty of snaps left in me, after 16 years of giving this game everything I've got, I can't wait to see what else is possible."

Smith earned AP Comeback Player of the Year honors for getting back on the field last season, two years removed from an injury that required 17 operations. After breaking his right tibia and fibula in a game Nov. 18, 2018, against Houston, he said he wondered if he'd be able to take walks with his

wife or play with his kids in the yard — let alone play in the NFL again.

He was hospitalized for almost a month and survived a life-threatening infection in addition to the operations. Smith spent the next year and a half rehabbing and was back at practice when Washington assembled for training camp last summer.

Smith's first game action since the injury came Oct. 11 when Kyle Allen was injured, and he made his first start at Detroit on Nov. 15. He went 5-1 as the starter, including a victory at Philadelphia in Week 17 on a strained right calf that clinched the NFC East title for Washington.

"He accomplished the greatest comeback in professional sports history and was a huge part of our team's success this past season," owners Dan and Tanya Snyder said in a statement. "We witnessed every step of Alex's comeback, and he personifies perseverance, strength and the will to never give up."

The injury prevented Smith from playing against Tampa Bay in the wild-card round the next week, which Taylor Heinicke started and

impressed enough to earn another contract.

Smith told GQ earlier this year that the organization didn't expect him to play again. Coach Ron Rivera agreed with those comments, noting he was worried about Smith's health.

"The biggest thing he and I talked about, really, was that there was really no roadmap to get us to where we were," Rivera said last month. "He worked his butt off to put himself in a position to come back and play. ... It was always in the back of my head: 'What if he gets hurt again? What if he hurts that leg, that specific leg?' I don't want to be the guy that put him back on the field to let him get hurt again."

Washington released Smith in March and signed veteran quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick. Smith initially expressed his intent to keep playing but went unsigned more than a month into free agency.

"I'm going to take a little time to enjoy a few of those walks with my wife, and my kids have no idea what's coming for them in the backyard," he said.

In a statement Monday, Rivera called Smith an inspi-

ration and "the ultimate professional and one of the finest leaders" he has ever coached.

A self-professed "skinny, no-name recruit," Smith was the No. 1 overall pick out of Utah in 2005 and played 14 seasons for San Francisco, Kansas City and Washington. He threw for 35,650 yards and 199 touchdowns in 174 regular-season games and played in seven playoff games.

"Football wouldn't let me give up because, no, this isn't just a game," Smith said. "It's about how hard and how far you can push yourself. It's about the bond between those 53 guys in the locker room and everybody else in the organization. It's about fully committing yourself to something bigger."

Super Bowl winner and 2018 MVP Patrick Mahomes said Smith "really helped me be the quarterback I am today." Kansas City coach Andy Reid called Smith one of his all-time favorite players.

San Francisco CEO Jed York said, "Alex represented our franchise with class both on and off the field, and his contributions to the 49ers organization will be remembered forever."

2 of 3 seeded teams advance in junior champs

By MARK RABAGO

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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Two of three seeded teams in the doubles competition easily disposed of their opponents in Day 2 of the 2021 TSL CNMI Junior Tennis Tournament last Sunday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

Boys doubles 12 top seeds Yutaka Kadokura and Si Woo Lee nearly scored a shutout against Jihun Park and Landon Pudney, 6-0, 6-1. Boys singles No. 2 Seongeon Heo and Sean Lee also advanced following a tougher 6-3, 6-1 win over Serin Chung and Hye Jin Elliot.

There was one upset in the doubles though, as Ryan Choi and Emmon Tang surprised boys doubles 12 No. 2 Ian Chae and Ki Won Lee in a super tiebreaker, 7-5, 4-6, 10-3. Other results in the boys doubles 12 saw brothers



Henry and Stephen Yeom make quick work of Quido Lucas Jambor and Nathan Su, 6-1, 6-1.

In the boys doubles 18,

Daniel Dong Yeon Kang and Jun Wang blanked Jack Linden and Jesse Sablan, 6-0, 6-0. In the boys doubles 14, Wataru Kadokura and June



Yu triumphed over Henry Choi and Taher Shakir, 6-3, 6-0, while Hannah Chae and Jeong Bin Park defeated Stella Choi and Eliza Culp,

6-1, 6-0, in the girls doubles 12.

The 2021 TSL CNMI Junior Tennis Tournament resumes this Saturday with 17

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Jun Wang, left, and Daniel Dong Yeon Kang won their boys doubles 18 match in the 2021 TSL CNMI Junior Tennis Tournament last Sunday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

matches on tap at the AMP tennis courts and Fiesta Resort & Spa tennis courts. The semi-finals and finals will be held on Sunday also at both venues.

The 2021 TSL CNMI Junior Tennis Tournament is being sponsored for the first time by the TSL Foundation. It is also being conducted with help from the Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association.

NMITA president and CNMI National Tennis coach Jeff Race earlier said the junior championship will award the most points and goes a long way in determining who will travel with the junior national team to Guam for the North Pacific Regional Championships.

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events he competed in yesterday.

"Patrick has been working hard and his training proved to be successful in today's meet," she said.

While McDonald went 3/3 in the boys 12U, WSR won 2/2 in the 9U running events with Turtles Jiro Quindoza and Landin Reyes winning the 100m and 400m, respectively.

Quindoza topped the 100m with a time of 18:21 with a pair of Tsunamis—Joshua McDonald (18:49) and Ryan Jun (18:78)—at his coattails.

Reyes, for his part, was without peer in the 400m as he cut the tape in 01:33:47. He was followed by SCS' Andre Guerrero (01:37:13) and WSR's Marq Hernandez (01:43:66). The lone participant in the boys 9U 1,500m was SCS' Guerrero and he

completed the course in 08:11.

OES' Liam Sablan topped the 9U softball throw with a heave of 19.2, followed by WSR's Julius Javier and SCS' Lennox Sablan with throws of 17.35m and 15.2m, respectively.

WSR track coach Marlon Cabrera commended his boys for giving a good account of themselves despite limited training.

"I think they did well! With only less than a week of practice or more like few days because of the schedule with their classes. All I tell them every race is finish strong and finish the race!"

He also egged everyone on to go out and exercise as much as they can. "Really just need all the kids to come out and stay active! Instead of only staying in the house and not getting any exercise in."

The Public School System All Schools Track and Field Championship is being held in coordination with Northern

week, so I am happy that one of our senior players—Zachary Babauta—has taken on the responsibility to handle our youth players' practices and they will have the opportunity to train at the improved Kagman II facility," Diaz said.

Babauta, K2 Ballers coach Tom Pangelinan, Rollers referee director Fred Litulumar, and Rollers alumni and now Socho Basketball Club (As Matuis) president Matt Iguel helped in the repair and painting work at the Kagman II court and were also assisted by Kagman residents. The transformation will continue this weekend, according to Diaz.

"We would like to thank

Michelob Ultra sponsors 2021 Gold's Gym Challenge

The Gold's Gym Challenge returned for 2021 to offer contestants an opportunity to exceed their fitness goals, transform themselves, and earn a chance to win cash prizes.

Over a 12-week period, participants were photographed and measured to track progress. Aside from their sense of accomplishment and body transformation, the top individuals will be awarded cash and promotional prizes, which include a \$1,500 cash and in-kind donation courtesy of Michelob Ultra. Winners will be announced on July 10, and awarded their prizes by Gold's Gym Saipan.

"I'm glad to see the competitive spirit is still alive and well here in the CNMI and everyone who joins is already a winner," said Guy Pudney, resident manager, Marpac.

The Gold's Gym Challenge has been an annual event for



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Gold's Gym Saipan general manager Tyce Mister and Marpac resident manager Guy Pudney.

the CNMI since 2013 and serves to be a great opportunity for companies and organizations to promote health and fitness to their employees by encouraging them to join the Gold's Gym Challenge and

help support the competition.

Marpac is a responsible and upstanding family-owned business, built on a foundation of service. Our mission is to provide the best products to our customers, and be a local part-

ner helping to bring communities together, as well as supporting their growth to excellence. From our family to yours - Marpac is committed to serving the people of the CNMI, now, and for generations to come. (PR)

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players and coaches too look for venues for practices and games, especially at the onset of the crisis when restrictions on gathering, like sports events, were very stringent. Some of them used to train at home before utilizing the open Koblerville Gymnasium while still following safety protocols. However, travelling to the facility at the southern end of the island is still tough for other Rollers players.

"But with the improvement of the courts in our villages, access to these facilities will be easier. For Rollers, I can only go to Kagman once a

Rep. Lizama and Staffler for taking on this project and other lawmakers who have adopted and would be adopting basketball courts in the entire CNMI. This is a very inspiring work, especially for our youth, our basketball players and coaches, and the entire community who utilize these facilities for different activities," Diaz said.

The Rollers head coach added that the project is more than just about basketball—it's about teaching the youth the value of getting involved in activities that benefit the entire community.

"This also helps our players learn the value of ownership—taking care of the facility they are using and having

pride in improving it. If they see people vandalizing the facility, expect our players or Kagman residents to step in because they put in the hard work to make the court good and they don't want other people damaging it," Diaz said.

Babauta echoed Diaz's thoughts and thanked all the groups that partnered with Reps. Lizama and Staffler in last Saturday's project.

"I liked to give a big thank you to all the people who helped coordinate and volunteer their time, especially the kids who wanted to be a part of something great for our community. This gave them the opportunity to do so," Babauta said.

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which caused many mountain bikers like him to keep pace and as a result finished earlier than they used to.

Coming in second and third after Sublemente in the mountain bike division of the 60-kilometer race was John Arceo and Michael Aparte, respectively.

In the age group category, Nap Solis was the first to cross the finish line in the men's 30-39 followed by Reneboy Avila. Hernan Cristobal topped the men's 40-and-up, followed by Rosalio Quintos and Ferdz Licayan.

Floro Derexes, Gary Bandoja, and Norlo Jacosalem finished 1-2-3 in the men's 50-and-up,

while Ponce Corotan won the men's 60-and-up division followed by Bobax Aguilar.

In the beginners (20 kilometers), Edwin Angeles was first place with Ricardo Delos Santos, Christian De Guzman, and Fradel Sedillo making it in the Top 4.

The Emon Masonic Lodge awarded the Top 3 winners of each division with medals and other prizes during the awards ceremony held Sunday night at Rendezvous Restaurant.

The 2021 Padyakan Sa Saipan was originally set for March 20, but was moved back nearly a month after Saipan recorded a small cluster of COVID-19 cases early last month. Padyakan is a Filipino word which loosely means to pedal.



Jazz avenge loss
with 111-97 win
over Lakers in
rematch

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Saipan Tribune Sports

2 of 3 seeded
teams
advance in
junior champs

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

McDonald sweeps 100m, 400m, softball throw



MARK RABAGO

Saipan Community School's Patrick McDonald, left, and William S. Reyes Elementary School's Landin Reyes take part in the 400m of yesterday's qualifiers for the 2021 Public School System All Schools Track and Field Championship at the Oleai Track and Field.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Saipan Community School's Patrick McDonald swept the boys 12U 100m, 400m, and softball throw as the qualifiers for the 2021 Public School System All Schools Track and Field Championship continued yesterday at the Oleai Track and Field.

» Kingfishers also do trick in 9U

The fifth grader was the first to cross the finish line in the 100m with a time of 16:78. He was followed by William S. Reyes Elementary School's Ioane Camacho and Oleai Elementary School's Mark Dolotina with times of 17:48 and 19:25, respectively.

In the 400m, the 10-year-old barely beat out challengers

from the home of the Kingfishers and Turtles with a time of 01:32. WSR's Camacho was second with a time of 01:35, while OES' Dolotina rounded out the Top 3 with a time of 01:41.

McDonald won the 12U softball throw with a hurl of 17.4m. The only other participant in the



event in the age group was WSR's Gabriel Oikang who threw at a distance of 13m.

SCS track team assistant coach Taylor Nowicki said McDonald is just reaping the fruits of his training after winning all three

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Sublemente tops mountain bike division

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Rennan "Butch" Sublemente celebrated his return to competitive cycling by topping the mountain bike division of last Sunday's 2021 Padyakan Sa Saipan.



The 49-year-old from Puerto Princesa, Philippines was the first to cross the finish line in a mountain bike in the 60-kilometer, three-lap race that started and ended at Banzai Cliff in Marpi and had its turnaround at Seafix Inc. in Tanapag. There were no official times provided.

Sublemente said he was surprised to emerge victorious in the race, noting that he took a sabbatical from

the sport for six years before returning prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. He dedicated his win to his wife, Richelle, and their children, Lianna and Alyssa.

The former BMX enthusiast also took time to thank organizers and said he's just happy to finish

the race as it was a long and hot course. "It was really hot today. It's only 8am but it seemed like it's already 11am because of the heat," he said in Filipino.

Sublemente also said that the race was unusual since the pacing of the start allowed road bikers to catch up with the mountain bikers,

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MARK RABAGO

Rennan "Butch" Sublemente raises his mountain bike after winning his division in last Sunday's 2021 Padyakan Sa Saipan.

Rollers coach welcomes transformation of village courts

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



NMI Rollers Basketball Association co-founder and head coach Joe Diaz is extremely pleased with the community's efforts in transforming basketball courts in various villages on the islands.

Diaz said he's been hearing a lot about the Public Private Partnership initiative of the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers and the campaign's supporters for the past months and their work on the community facilities in the CNMI, specifically the outdoor basketball courts.

"Last Saturday, NMI Rollers had the opportunity take



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rollers coaches and players and Kagman residents and volunteers paint the Kagman II basketball court last Saturday in support of the improvement project in the village spearheaded by Reps. Leila Staffler and Richard Lizama.

part in initiative when we worked with Reps. Leila Staffler and Richard Lizama, the Kagman residents, and some of our coach, players, and their families in painting the Kagman II basketball court," said Diaz.

"I've learned basketball courts in other villages, such as Capitol Hill, As Matuis, Susupe, Chinatown, and Chalan Kanoa, have undergone significant improvements, too and this is great news to us, Rollers, and other basketball clubs in the CNMI, particularly our youth," the long-time coach added.

Diaz said that since the COVID-19 pandemic struck, it was pretty challenging for

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